

BibleTalk Radio



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Christ for the Philippines Mission

Pastor and Mrs. Ronilo Ampatin Guest Interview

by Ypille Tirse, Missionary Wife

January 24, 2017

Interview by Sister Ypille Tirse of guests Pastor Ronilo Ampatin and his wife, Grace, who are missionaries out of Bacolod, residing in Tacloban and ministering in Santa Rita, Samar.

Ypille: Hello. Good afternoon, Pastor and Sister Grace. I'm just going to try to speak Tagalog. I know my Tagalog is atrocious, but I would try. Pastor and Sister Grace are from Bacolod. For ease, I will speak Tagalog. So, Pastor and Sister, how is everything?

Pastor: God is good, amen. God has really blessed us.

Ypille: Are you enjoying Leyte and Samar?

Pastor: Yeah, yeah.

Ypille: So far, what has been the best thing about Leyte and Samar? Which part?

Pastor: The mission, the main purpose.

Ypille: That's good. Can you tell us how many years you have served individually? First of all, if you can speak about your testimony, when you were saved, and then what has it been like being with Jesus, walking with the Lord.

Sister: Actually, I grew up in a Christian home, and I have brothers also that are serving the Lord, pastors there in

Negros. I got saved when I was 21 years old. But before that, I thought that I had the relationship with God, so at the age of 21, that's the time that I realized that I really need the Lord. Growing up in a Christian home, thinking that I have a relationship with God already, but thank God, the Holy Spirit worked in my heart that I needed to be saved at the age of 21. Since then until now for how many years, I guess, for almost 18 years or more, I've served God.

Ypille: What year was that, Sister?

Sister: When I got saved? May 1, 2002, Saturday, after we had our sports fest. But actually I was convicted but I kept on fighting because I was thinking that I've been in the ministry for a long time. Then at the age of 21, finally realized....

Ypille: You were not really saved. Isn't that something. There's a lot of people who have grown in the church in the family, and then they get saved. That happens a lot. Usually, those are really good testimonies, too. Not that everybody



who has this testimony isn't good, but they have good stories. Pastor, tell me your testimony.

Pastor: December 17, 2005. I worked in a city and somebody gave time and gave me a tract and shared to me the Word of God. So that man right now is a missionary there in Negros. Thank the Lord that he took a short time to explain the plan of salvation and by the grace of God December 17 I got saved and then I enrolled in Bible college.

Ypille: Immediately, Pastor?

Pastor: Yeah. And then I studied there to be a preacher.

Ypille: How old were you then, Pastor?

Pastor: Twenty-one years old. Then I worked in our church for almost ten years, so I've been three years then in our Bible school and then I'm working in the mission program. Then God called us to go out and spread the Good News here.

Ypille: So, Pastor, please, I know we've talked about this one before, but why did you choose or why did God impress you? First of all, let's talk about your mission. I'm going ahead of myself. Can you please explain that in terms of growth in the church and mission work.

Pastor: Right now, we've been in Santa Rita in Samar for a year and a half. God is really good. He gave us some people, people that are willing to follow the

Lord Jesus Christ. Last year, we were able to have a baptism service for 21 souls and for the first time we were also able to have our daily vacation Bible school.

Ypille: It's a lot of fun.

Pastor: Yeah, a challenge. My wife and I travel every Sunday from here in Tacloban after the service.

Ypille: That's really a sacrifice for the Lord. Praise God. That's wonderful. So, can you tell us more, like, for example, your members. What's the demographics, adults, children?

Pastor: By the grace of God, for now we have 25 people, adult and also young people. Also, I think 30 students, and 40, sometimes 50, every Sunday. God has really blessed the work.

Ypille: Sister, I'm also interested in preacher's wives. Can you tell us about what you do at the church and everything? I heard you say that you play the piano and that's always an inspiring thing, a wife of a pastor that plays an instrument, and I bet you sing well, Sister. Please tell us about your involvement in your mission.

Sister: Well, I really love music and one of my desires is to teach young people how to play piano and the recorder, too. In the future, maybe violin. So that's one thing that can get the attention of the young people, because most of them right now have...



Ypille: It's very good to involve them in instruments rather than in the things that are in the world right now that gets them into trouble. And then can you tell us about your children's ministry there, as well?

Sister: Right now, kids are growing and they are learning little by little. But the first time that we started there, I really felt burdened with them because it seems like they never heard Bible stories, so I was burdened with that. Even though I didn't speak their language, I tried my best to speak Tagalog. So right now I'm enjoying teaching kids and teaching flute right now. In the future maybe teaching them...

Ypille: Anyway, what's the future for you guys? What are your immediate plans? To grow the church and all that.

Sister: I guess we're planning to saturate the area more, spend more time there, and home Bible studies there. One thing is to try to disciple the young people in order for them to grow in the Word of God.

Ypille: Amen. Now, do you have... what's the ratio of the youth population? Can Pastor talk about the youth population in your work?

Pastor: We have one high school here in Tacloban so we're praying that God will use them mightily and be a great help in the ministry.

Ypille: Yes, youth is always like that. Okay, so I think that's all the time we have for the interview with Pastor and Mrs. Ampatin. Thank you, Pastor. Thank you, Sister.