



Christ for the Philippines Mission



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Tony & Ypille Tirse

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Greetings to you in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth our Lord and God. What a privilege it is to be God's missionaries in this vast field of the Philippines. We are so elated with the work that God has called us to here. Each week we see and are an intimate part of the growth of the saints here. The mission work in Duka is going strong and we are pushing through with our efforts to build our little sanctuary. Progress has slowed a bit due to some recent government projects that have been providing much needed temporary work for the men, consequently, they have been working those jobs and we have been in a holding pattern for a few weeks. But those government projects (some schools and roads) are coming to an end in the next few weeks and we will be getting back on track to getting the sanctuary built.

The Sunday school is particularly exciting. Some weeks back, as we were finishing our eight-month series on Basic Bible Doctrines, the Lord impressed on my heart to begin an in-depth verse-by-verse study in the Book of Revelation. I prayed about this for a few weeks but the Lord was still impressing it on my heart. I thought, "Lord, this is a brand new mission work. Should I really embark on something as deep and seemingly complicated as Revelation?" But the Lord reminded me that this is the only book in the Bible that promises a blessing for studying it ("read, hear, keep"-Rev. 1:3).

So I began to study it with a new vigor and must say that I have enjoyed it more than ever. We have now been in this study for four weeks and it has indeed been a blessing. One of the things that makes the study of Revelation such a blessing is that in order to understand the symbology and strange language contained therein, you are forced to search other parts of the Scripture to find the interpretation, to understand the Hebrew or Greek idioms and metaphors, and to become familiar with the various typologies given by inspiration.

It is a blessing because, by default, I am able to teach our people more of the Bible in a deeper way (and learn myself!) as we unlock the mysteries of the Book of Revelation. The folks are really enjoying this study so far and have been riveted each Sunday School. So we've been in it for four weeks and haven't even discussed chapter one, verse one yet. It has all been introduction so far!

Here are some highlights since last report:

- Visited several homes preaching the gospel and conducting in-home Bible studies.
- Have seen several professions of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Have baptized 2 new converts.
- Have continued to disciple new believers to be servants of Christ.
- Have two growing mission works in Duka & Babatngon, Leyte.

Prayer Requests:

- For God to give us a greater harvest than ever
- For our new building project in Duka, Barugo, Leyte
- For a permanent property in both Duka and Babatngon

This Issue's Highlight: Babatngon

We'd like to highlight the mission work in Babatngon in this issue to help you get to know these precious people a little better. Although it is considered a small to medium-sized town, Babatngon proper has a population of about 10,000 with another 18,000 or so in the rural outlying areas that fall under its jurisdiction. Since we've come here, Babatngon has been our primary target for our soul winning and church plant efforts as this is the area that God laid on my heart several years ago. We've been visiting there on a weekly basis. God began to bless this work within a few weeks as we saw folks become interested in the in-home Bible studies and many made the decision to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.



I have been careful to guide them in the true teachings of the Bible and preach to them a true gospel, not a simple "easy believe-ism" for the sake of numbers. I have had the blessed privilege to baptize 21 of those who have made a profession of faith in Christ and desired to follow Him in believers' baptism. We now have a solid core of about 20 that come to Sunday School and Sunday services each week.

This group consists of mostly women, and there are many babies in each service. The men here, for the most part, are not particularly interested yet. There are many who prefer to spend their Sundays gambling at the cock fights, at card games, or drinking with their buddies. These men are not quick to join in as they have seen that religion has done nothing for them, and at the moment they are seeing our mission work as just another religion.

I was told that another missionary of some sort had visited them for a few weeks just after super typhoon Yolanda in 2013 but that he disappeared once his "contract" was over. I told them that as far as I know, I was following orders from Jesus Who said "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" until such time as the Lord Himself calls one of them to pastor and sends me to the next church plant. These dear folks are loving the teaching of God's Word and eagerly come each week with Bible, notebook and pen in hand. We have ladies Bible study every Thursday morning, Men's Bible study every Thursday afternoon and Sunday School & Services every Sunday beginning at 2pm. Please keep them in your most fervent prayers. Thanks and God bless you!

Because Jesus Christ lives,

Tony Tirse - Mat. 28:6

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