



Christ for the Philippines Mission



Contact: PO Box 6273 - Spring Hill, FL 34611 (352) 410-7549 tony@cftpm.org www.cftpm.org

Sending Church: Lighthouse Baptist Church 7399 Fort Dade Ave - Brooksville, FL 34601

Tony & Ypille Tirse

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Greetings in the precious Name of the Lord and our Saviour Jesus Christ. It is always exciting to report the wonderful things that God is doing through our ministry. By the grace of God, we have seen souls lighted with the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ and profess Him as personal Saviour. With great joy, we have baptized new brothers and sisters in Christ who want to follow their Saviour in that precious ordinance and publicly identify with Him.

Our mission church in Babatngon is growing in the doctrines of God week by week and continue faithful. Sis. Ypille began a weekly ladies Bible study there a few weeks ago and they have enjoyed it immensely. Each week she hands out fill-in-the-blank study sheets and she teaches them precept by precept such things as biblical prayer, holy living, placing God first in every decision and in raising their children in the admonition of the Lord.

Also in Babatngon I have been encouraging the men to take a biblical leadership role both in their homes and at church services. One man, Bro. Manuel, is already taking the initiative and I am able to call on him to open or close in prayers. Also, we have begun to take up tithes and offerings here as I have taught them about giving.

In Duka the work continues with the stairs up the hill. But just as this work is done step by step, block by block, rebar by rebar, and batch of concrete at a time, so too are the people being built up in the precepts, statutes and doctrines of God. The men there are coming along, having their confidence increased by our consistency with them. One man, Bro. Ezekiel, gave his first devotional last week. He was nervous and emotional, but did a fine job. It thrills my soul to see these dear souls growing in the grace of God and willing to go forth in His service.

Sunday School is particularly enjoyable for me. Each week I hand out study sheets and go over each Baptist Bible doctrine, one at a time. We've been doing this since the beginning. I love watching the enthusiasm of the people as they take notes and ask questions. It is not uncommon for us to go over by 30 or even 60 minutes. No one ever complains, on the contrary, those are always our best services. Just a couple of weeks ago one person asked a question and that caused a two-and-a-half hour round-table Bible study. And this was at 8:45 on a Sunday morning!

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 6 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

The Duka Building Project

Last newsletter we announced the beginning of our building project in Duka. By the grace of God that work has continued and we now have the stairway built just about to the top of the hill. It has been hard work, carving the stairs into the hard clay, fighting tough coconut tree roots and occasional rocks. As the stairway grows higher and higher, the trip up carrying hollow blocks, cement and sand gets more and more tiring. But the joy never fades. In fact, it only grows with each new step up the hill completed. The days are hot and humid, but the fellowship is warm and as refreshing as the soft sea-breeze.



We are currently just about 20 steps from reaching the top (there will be approximately 70 or so steps in total), after which we will begin our preparation of the land atop the hill for the new sanctuary building. God has been faithful in supplying the needs as His people in Duka have been faithful in their giving. As I said in a previous report, our goal is not to raise American money for this project, but to teach the Filipinos to depend on God and watch Him work. In the past few weeks God has miraculously provided through a small Spanish Baptist church in Florida to which I've never been, who heard about our building project and the members gave generously toward it.

Our members rejoiced to see God work in such a faithful and surprising way. But wait, there's more! Recently a Christian lady in Vienna, Austria, whom we do not know personally, also heard about our poor village and their dedication to God's service and worship. She also sent a generous gift. We have now been able to get the materials needed to finish the stairway. I have always taught these Filipino brethren: "The same God Who blessed America is the same God Who will bless the Filipinos, if you place your trust in Him!"

We look forward in our next report to detailing the progress of God's new sanctuary atop the seaside hill of Barangay Duka. Please keep us in your prayers as the work to build people with the cement of God's Word is always primary. God bless you.

You can find our FaceBook page by doing a search for "Tony Tirse." We will keep you updated.

Because Jesus Christ lives,,
Tony Tirse - Mat. 28:6
Field VOIP Ph: 352-410-7549 (US number)
Field Cell Ph: 011-63-947-693-9894 (Philippines)
Email: tony@cftpm.org