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Dear Friends,

The Christmas season was a busy and blessed time serving the Lord. It was probably my favorite. It was a very special Christmas. One reason was that many people were saved and the other was that our whole family was able to be here. This is the first time all 10 of us have been in Iloilo at the same time.

The two main events we have during December are the Help the Needy program and the Christmas musical. In this newsletter we want to share information about helping the needy among Muslims and the T'boli tribe.

HELP THE NEEDY

The Help the Needy program took place in several places. This newsletter covers 2 of those places.

1. MARAWI CITY

For the 5th year our church has run a program to help the needy people of Marawi City. ISIS destroyed this city in 2017. This city is at the heart of Islam in the Philippines but civic leaders and other residents are open to Christianity. For the first time the city is allowing Muslims who converted to Christianity, such as Joey Alley, to preach in the location center for those who are still homeless. Joey Alley is an Independent Baptist preacher who was saved through the ministry of Val Murrillo, a graduate of the church in Cebu City, that Missionary Bob Hughes started years ago. The city of 250,000 people does not have a hotel because outsiders were afraid to stay there for years. Businesses still do not want to take the risk of working there.

This year, 14 IBC members flew down to Mindanao and conducted 2 medical missions, in addition to giving toys to hundreds of children and groceries to hundreds of families. Five Muslims trusted Christ as their Savior during these events. Below is Brother Alley helping in the medical mission. The medical mission was held at what they call Ground Zero where fighting took place.



You can see some of the destroyed buildings in the background.



Riyannee, one of our staff members with one of the residents of Marawi City



Below is Riyannee helping some of the needy people there.



Please pray as Gene Sharp is planning to come to the Philippines around the middle of June to set up a radio station in Quezon City and General Santos City. Please pray that the station in Marawi will become operational during his trip. So much prayer has gone into this project and now seems like the best chance to get this station on the air. We have worked on many ministry projects over the years, but this one is unique—it's one of the projects that I have prayed for and worked on the most. I feel this way because there has been very little effort to reach this city and God has allowed the tragedy these people have gone through to open their hearts.

2. T'BOLI TRIBE - HELP THE NEEDY

There were also 5 medical missions for the T'Boli tribe..



One of the medical missions and the gift-giving event was held in a very remote part of the Philippines. First they would pack the supplies on motorcycles. After a long trip they would pack the items on the back of horses.



These horses were beautiful, and able to travel long distances with a heavy load on their backs.



Then they came to a river, carried the items across, and took them even further on more motorcycles.



They crossed another river and packed some more horses and went up the mountain.



Finally, they arrived with some toys for the kids!



They had activities, preaching, and Bible stories with the children. There were many T'Bolis who accepted the Lord on this trip. Several of the T'boli young people went back to Iloilo City with our workers as they wanted to enroll in the Bible College here. About 15 graduates have started a church in the T'Boli area of southern Mindanao.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THESE MISSIONARIES

1. Please pray for the Haitian missionary Johnsley Berilus going to Senegal. He was trained by Juanito Genada, an IBC graduate who has lived in Gonaives, Haiti, for 32 years. Bro. Berilus has finished his deputation and the Haitian churches have raised his monthly support. He has part of the money for his tickets to Africa and hopes to have the rest soon. He and his family have already received their visas to enter Senegal.



2. Also please pray for missionary Dryold Silencieux (on the right), who is going to Mexico. Bro. Genada also trained him in Haiti. He is on deputation in Haiti. He recently made a survey trip to Mexico and visited the ministries of Missionary Kevin Wynne and Missionary Louis Ramas. Visiting those ministries greatly encouraged him. In the picture below he is with KC, the son of Bro. Juanito Genada.



3. Please pray for Ernest Paul Ajito who is going to South Sudan as a missionary. (pictured below) He grew up in our church as his father, Pastor Ernelito Ajito, was the youth director for 14 years. In 2004, his father started a church in another city and now runs a Bible College. The South Sudan is still a dangerous place to live. He has already made a survey trip to the South Sudan.



4. Please pray for Paul Genada, he is the son of Missionary Mario Genada, our first graduate sent to Zambia, Africa. Paul recently got married. He has already started a church in the same region as his father. Juanito Genada who is in Haiti and Mario Genada who is in Zambia are brothers. Juanito has been in Haiti since 1994. Mario has been in Zambia since 1998. Paul and his siblings grew up there. Below are Paul and his sister Precious, who is also married and working in the church in Zambia.

These pictures were taken a few years ago. Paul & Precious in Zambia, with a Zebra!



5. Please pray for Eljane Satunero who is on our church staff. Lord willing she will go back to Uganda someday. Her brother Lemuel is a 3rd year student at IBC and planning to go back to Uganda.

6. Please pray for Daniel Calibayan. He is on our staff and plans to go to Zambia as a missionary. His father, Eduard Calibayan is a graduate and has been in Zambia since 2009.

We are so thankful for those who have been helping the Lord's work here!

God bless,

Rick and Becky Martin