

# STEDMANS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Greetings Pastors, Family, Friends, and Churches,

August/September 2017

"Thank you for coming in here to teach us." That was what one man said to me in the prison when we finished our first official extension class of IBMP. Hebrews 10:34 came to mind, "For ye had compassion of me in my bonds." The Lord impressed the idea of this ministry to Br. Sutek a couple of months ago. After complying with the various requirements and getting police clearance, we were able to start with interviews September 28 and that day we had 60 sign up. The following Thursday we had 77 on the sign-up sheet. Glory to God! Marlon will be teaching one hour of Basic Bible Doctrines. Then I will teach on New Testament Survey. This prison has a population of 2700 plus inmates in an approximate area of seven acres. There is no segregation between minimum, medium, or maximum security. The drug dealer, murderer, and terrorist are all together. The picture you see with the small concrete wall is where the Muslims congregate and have teaching and prayer. It is right next to where we have our classes so they get to hear the Word of God as we have a PA system. Please keep us in prayer as we go forward in this opportunity.



LANGUAGE BARRIER: "Next time I finalize you." That is what the traffic enforcement officer said to me. When our friends the Lowes came to visit, I took Chris with me to pick up a package at the Post Office. Finding a parking spot is always a challenge in the city. I pulled alongside the curb. Ten feet in front of me was a sign that said, "No Parking," with a yellow line proceeding to the intersection. I was parked beside a white line, so I thought no problem. We retrieved the package and I was starting to drive away when the traffic cop approached the car and informed me I was parked in a no parking area. He showed me a sign behind me that said delivery only. I apologized and asked forgiveness for my ignorance. He said he would let me go but... "next time I FINALIZE YOU!" I said does that mean you will kick me out of the country? That sounds pretty drastic. He said no I just finalize you. I just thanked him and we drove off with no ticket. Then it hit me when I saw the sign near a pile of material that said, "STOCKFILE." The sign should have read "STOCKPILE." The officer meant next time he would PENALIZE me.

CULTURE: If you're one of those that get irritated when Wal-Mart breaks out the Christmas promotion right after Halloween you may not want to visit here in September. That's when the Filipinos start celebrating Christmas and the music starts. You can order a Douglas fir 7 to 8 feet tall from Oregon now for only 3900 pesos. At 50 pesos to the US dollar, well you can do the math. For various reasons, I think I will pass.

A big **THANK YOU!** to the kids in VBS at Hemlock Road Baptist, Pastor Jeremy Evans and all the workers for the offering of \$346.50 that will go for playground equipment at our new church!

Praise God for one year on the field as of September! Thank you all for your support and prayers and thank the Lord for letting us be part of the ministry here in the Philippines. We have been able to give out 90 Bibles and thousands of tracts. We have seen quite a few get saved and baptized and want you to know that you are part of this ministry and will have fruit toward your account with God where moth and rust doth not corrupt!

Prayer requests: 1) God's help in learning the language. We can get by with English but we don't want to just get by. Something happens when you attempt to communicate in the local dialect that affects the heart. 2) Tracts, we have some in Manila but have been told they will not get here until November 5. We are scraping the bottom of the seed barn right now. The Day of the Dead on November 1 is a big outreach opportunity and we can get out thousands of tracts in one day. 3) Emily and Jon need help with their school work. 4) KJV Bibles needed, nothing fancy but not small print.

Thanks Again, Greg Stedman

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