

# PHILIPPINES

## THE STEDMAN FAMILY

Greetings Pastors, Churches, Friends, and Family

August-September 2022

**Ephesians 3:20** *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.*

Thank the Lord for his hand in the work in Claveria, Misamis Oriental Philippines, on the Island of Mindanao. I put the full name so you can look it up on Google if you have a mind. Thank you, Pastors, churches, friends, and family, for your support financially and your prayers. "Exceeding abundantly" is precisely the words to describe what the Lord has done.

I mentioned to a local Pastor, Dimver Andales, what the Lord put on my heart in 2020 when I first visited Claveria and the University of Science and Technology Claveria campus. He gave me the number of a teacher at the College. She was very excited to help in this endeavor. She did a lot in securing the venues and letting the city officials and the College know we would be having public ministry and passing out Gospel tracts. I was able to get Evangelist Howard Hunter and Dax Baarde to come and help as well. Brother Howard had reached out to me while we were still in the States in the spring. He was going to be in the PI for Six months until the end of August. I took a step of faith, and he agreed to come the last week of August. I didn't have a clue where we would meet or how. I just knew the Lord was leading and trusted Him to work out the details, and he did, exceeding abundantly!

This is how the week went: Monday and Tuesday, the evangelist arrived. Tuesday noon, we drove out to Claveria to meet Imelda, the teacher, who then introduced us to the Pastor of a church in the area, which had a hall we could use for the meeting Saturday from 2 to 9 p.m. We would have preaching and singing, then snacks and a meal. The church that allowed us to use the hall is part of the Baptist Conference of the Philippines. The Pastor was pleased to tell me of the worship band that his daughter and son-in-law led; more on that later. The hall was perfect, and I am thankful for the use of it. I arranged for the evangelist to have a revival meeting at San Simon BC, with Pastor Marlon on Wednesday and Thursday nights. It was an excellent and well-attended weekday meeting; many went to the altar and did business with the Lord.

On Friday, we went up to Claveria; it's only 41 miles, but it takes 2 hours of driving due to traffic and road conditions. Pastor Marlon, The Cannons (missionaries out of Cornerstone BC Carthage TN), and the teen group from SSBC came up to help. We had an excellent street meeting at the Van terminal, the market, and then UTSP. We passed out over a thousand chick tracts and a hundred invitations for the Saturday meeting.

The meeting on Saturday started at 2:00. It was a slow start; no one arrived until 2:30. That's when Imelda's daughter Mildred a Junior at the College and an ROTC cadet, showed up with 10 of her classmates. Eventually, we had 60. We were giving out Bibles on a first come basis. The plan was to have singing, two preachers, snacks, two preachers, dinner, and one more preacher. The meal showed up late, and we adjusted the schedule. I preached, then Pastor Marlon and Br Jovani. We had snacks, then decided to have Dax preach, wrap it up, and eat dinner when it arrived. A few from the church which let us use the hall showed up, and even the Pastor's wife requested a Bible. Towards the end of Dax's message, the so-called WORSHIP BAND

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decided to go practice in the sanctuary, and they cranked it up. The devil tried to use this (Anna thought there was a bar next door) to distract the people. Praise the Lord; it didn't work! The Holy Spirit was doing work even with the winds blowing contrary. Throughout the day, the emphasis was given on the simplicity of the Gospel, and the fact that you only have to get saved once. Howard gave the invitation clearly while the rock band tried to interrupt. Praise the Lord for 20 who stood up to profess Jesus Christ as their Savior! Afterward, we had dinner and fellowship, and 11 people signed up for follow-up Bible study.

That Sunday we had to meet somewhere else as the hall wasn't available and that was just as well. Imelda was able to obtain the covered court from the city. She forgot about the huge cardboard cutout of the Image of Mary and was somewhat embarrassed. You couldn't do much about it, so we ignored the idol and proceeded with the service. **1 Corinthians 8:4** "*As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.*" Praise the Lord for three who stood up and made a profession of faith! There were also two police officers who stayed for most of the service but had to go back to work. They all received gospel tracts, and I hope to see the police again to have devotions with their precinct.

Claveria outreach #2: I was able to get 5 of the 11 to respond. I have been texting a devotion every other day, and the response has been good. We arranged to have a Saturday Bible study at a small resort and restaurant called Ma Mitas. It's nothing fancy but comfortable, and the owner is a Christian. We stayed there on our first outreach.

Imelda could not make it to the Bible study because she had a class to teach on that Saturday. It is a short-term class that teaches how to work on a dairy farm to those who hope to work abroad. She offered to give me thirty minutes to this class of about 40 students. This is one of those times when God uses past experiences to relate to others. I grew up (6<sup>th</sup> grade thru high school) in a small farming community. We raised chickens, pigs, and cattle, and I was in FFA. I worked for Purina Mills from 2002 to 2014, delivering Bulk feed to ranches of all kinds and, when not driving, worked in the mill manufacturing feed. I gave the class my history and told them how I had been to small dairies as small as 30 milking cows to huge dairies with 1500 milking cows. I then taught them that the Bible is not just a book on religion but also a history book. I told them of the first murder in the Bible. How a farmer killed a shepherd and that they were brothers. Then I took them to the Great Shepherd. The plan is to have five more sessions with this class and, upon graduation, give them a bible and hopefully see a bunch get saved.

The Bible study was also excellent. We got four from the first outreach, and they brought five more from the College. Praise the Lord! A 2-hour Bible study with lots of questions. These young people have a hunger for the Word of God.

For now, we will go to Claveria every other week in October. Another added blessing is that the owner(Louise) has offered us a substantial discount of 50% off for a smaller cottage; if the larger cottage is available, she will upgrade us for free!

Prayer request: 1) For Imelda, Mildred, and Louise as they help bring them in. 2) All those who made a profession of faith come to the services and eventually get baptized. 3) The commute for travel mercies. 4) Finding a place to rent if needed and a place to live up there (It is 2156 feet, and CDO is close to sea level), Lord willing.

Thank you all who help with Bibles, tracts, and finances so we can do this labor of reaching precious souls for the Glory of The Lamb of God, our Saviour Jesus Christ!!

With Thanksgiving, Greg and Anna Stedman in the Philippines