

PHILIPPINES

THE STEDMAN FAMILY

Greetings Pastors, Churches, Friends, and Family

January-February 2023

I cannot express my gratitude enough to the Lord Jesus and you all for your support. I pray for you all often and give thanks for you and your prayers.

I pray that I could be like the apostle Paul and could say, *If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.* (2 Corinthians 11:30) I am thankful for every day and praise the Lord for His grace. The surgeon said it would take 2 to 3 months to recover fully. I leaned towards two, but the reality is that it's three months and a little more. We continue to minister, preach and pass out tracts and do what we can while adjusting to my infirmities. Every day is better, and my natural strength continues to improve.

I could not drive for seven weeks after the surgery, and Anna had not yet driven here, but out of necessity, she started driving in our barangay (community.) Because of the surgery, I could not sit for long and was limited in how far I could travel. We attended Lapasan BC, as the road was not too rough, and my body could handle the drive. There is a store nearby the church, and often we stop there after the services. We would pass out tracts and invite folks to church at Lapasan. Anna gave tracts to the cashiers. One day a cashier named Angelica eventually asked Anna if she was a Christian. Angelica got the following Sunday off and came to church with us. We were able to give her a bible, and we took her to lunch to talk with her. She gave us a testimony of salvation. She was saved as a young girl but was never baptized. Praise the Lord that she will follow the Lord in believers' baptism on March 12!



I was able to go to a new police station on February 10 and was allowed to preach to the detainees in the holding cell and then to the police officers. The next day we loaded up to head to Claveria, where I was going to preach to the dairy worker's class that afternoon. Right before we were getting ready to leave, I received the news that my mother had passed away. I was told that she had a peaceful look on her face. When we said



goodbye to her in May before our return, I knew there was a good possibility that we would not see her again face to face this side of heaven. Anna and I wept and thanked the Lord for her testimony of salvation. And we continued by the grace of God. That day I had the opportunity to preach to 75 students and point them to the Lamb of God with the hope in my heart that helps sustain me in all trials and tribulations. The following Sunday, I preached to a smaller group with that same hope. We are scheduled to preach to the dairy workers once a month, and we will be back there on March 18, 19. I pray that they will be saved and we will give them all a bible so they can be a witness wherever they are, here or abroad. As the Lord provides, we pray to find a building or land by the college in due time.

The Hospital ministry has been a blessing. I was able to glory in my infirmities as Pastor Marlon explained to them that despite cancer, I returned to the Philippines to minister and stayed here and had major surgery

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instead of returning to the States. It got their attention, and they listened attentively to me as I preached. One young Muslim lady took the little tract, "Does Anyone Love You?" and read it carefully, as you can see by the picture.



The following week on the day before we were to go back to the police station, I received a message that a man who had murdered his cousin with a knife was a detainee, with a request, "Could we give the words of God written in the bible to him?" And so, we preached the word and shone the light in the darkness. I let Marlon preach first and just watched as he told the two detainees of Saul of Tarsus, who consented to the murder of Stephen, and yet got saved. I did not know which one was the murderer. One man was very agitated and pacing back and forth, snarling occasionally. The other, Aljun, was calm, listened carefully, and wanted a Bible. I preached and explained how we are all sinners, but Christ was sinless. I use Dr. Ruckman's "Tell It Like It Is" illustrations. The agitated man said he did not believe Jesus was not a sinner. I thought, surely this is the killer. I showed him the picture of hell and told him with some sadness in my voice that he was going there if he didn't change his mind and repent of that wicked thought. He seemed a little troubled briefly; again, I thought this must be the man that killed his cousin. I learned again that the Lord only knows the heart. The murderer was Aljun. The calm one who listened carefully, took the tracts hungrily, and wanted a Bible. We will not see Aljun again as we do not have access to the prison he is going to. Pray that he would get saved and become a witness for Jesus Christ in the prison that he will probably be in for the rest of his life.

Prayer Requests:

Answered prayer- We are finally getting help with our Missionary Visa, and the paperwork is in the process now. We have some papers to get in the U.S., and it should be all set up this summer!

Please continue to pray for direction with the ministry in Claveria.

Salvation for Aljun and Brenda

Help from the Lord to learn the Bisayan [also called Cebuano] language.

Thank you so much. *Daghang Salamat,*

The Stedmans