

PHILIPPINES

THE STEDMAN FAMILY

Dear Pastors, Churches, Friends, and Family

March - May 2023

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ; thank you again for your prayers and support.

David proclaimed in **1 Samuel 20:3**, "truly as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, *there is* but a step between me and death." And Paul said in **2 Corinthians 1.9**, "But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead." Praise the Lord for the gift of eternal life!

On March 21, I went in for a CT scan. Anna and I met Monico and his wife at the hospital. He was told the pain and symptoms he had were probably lung cancer. I witnessed to him and his wife and testified how the Lord had sustained us through this battle with cancer. Monaco's wife didn't speak much English, but Anna comforted her the best she could as she sobbed and they hugged each other. The results of my CT scan and lab work showed I am currently cancer free. Monico's prognosis was not as well. It was stage 4 lung cancer for him. We exchanged contact information and we discovered they live in the municipality of Claveria.

I continued to encourage him in the word of God. He earnestly wanted to know more, although they were staunch Catholics. The idea of being 100% sure of your eternal destiny was new news for him. We planned on visiting him in his Barangay. Then he informed me he was in the hospital again. I was able to see him in the cancer ward, a room with 20 patients with different cancers and stages, and I was able to talk to him and all the patients in English and Bisayan. I handed out tracts and told him how to be saved again. He smiled and told me he was OK. A few days later, I texted him to tell him I would visit again soon. His son answered and let me know that Monico had passed. I was shocked. It was April 25, about a month after his CT scan. The book of **Ecclesiastes** reads, "time and chance happeneth to them all. For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net."



Cancer seems like an evil net, but for the Christian, we are admonished; "In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, concerning you." I just have to trust God and thank Him that I have survived thus far, so I preach as a dying man to dying men. Every day is a gift not to be taken lightly.

The evangelistic outreach in Claveria has been going well. We were able to continue preaching on Saturday to 3 dairy worker classes and the first-year ROTC. In one class, I started by asking the class, "Who knows that if they die, they will be with the Lord? Raise your hand." Only about 3 out of 30 would raise their hands, so I preached on "The Promise of God vs. the Lies of the devil." One lie being that no one can know if they are saved. I preached the verses showing that the Lord wants you to know you have eternal life. At the end, I gave them the opportunity to pray in their own words and ask the Lord to save them. I asked the question again and asked for a show of hands. About 90% raised their hands, all glory to God.

I mentioned our encounter with Monico and his wife in all the classes. I explained to the students the same thing I told Monico and his wife that when I was diagnosed with cancer, I figured I was in a win-win situation.

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Philippians 1:21, For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. After one class, a young lady approached me and told me that Monico was her family's neighbor. I once again talked of the blessing of being a child of God and knowing your eternal destination.



The "tract with a snack" ministry has been a blessing. Anna got the idea of having a snack and a tract ready for the street kids who beg for money. These kids are run by adults who use them to beg. Better to give them something to eat and the gospel. I also started taking the tracts with a snack to the hospital outpatient ministry as well.

We are returning to the States for a short visit. I will go to the VA for my yearly physical and to see the oncologist to monitor my health and confirm I am cancer free. There are also some family events that we will attend. Caleb is getting ordained June 16; Drew is getting married July 1 to Bethany Bierman in Minnesota; then in August, we will have a memorial service for my mother, Molly Stedman, who passed away February 10, 2023. Many of you have prayed for her over the years, and I sincerely thank you. We still have some lost relatives, which will be another opportunity to preach the gospel.

Thank you so much. *Daghang Salamat*,

The Stedmans