

The Mindanao Report

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Time is Marching on

There is nothing more exciting in life I believe than serving Jesus. There is nothing more challenging and rewarding I believe than the mission field! What a great gift God has given to the body of Christ, to go into all the world and teach all nations about the Great KING of the universe, the LORD Jesus Christ!

And what a wonderful blessing it is to pray and ask God for wisdom to learn a foreign language and see His overwhelming answer to prayer in daily life! I have been heavily studying Cebuano and working with my teacher for about 3 months now, and I can communicate and understand most in basic conversation. I have been preaching 100% in Cebuano every Sunday, and I am learning new words and concepts daily. It's a great challenge and a blessing to learn a new word and then spend time trying to figure out what it means while my Cebuano speaking friend explains the word in Cebuano. Double duty learning - learn the word and the Cebuano definition at the same time!

Language learning is a wonderful experience, but it does require sacrifices. Making many mistakes and being corrected constantly constitutes much of the time spent in language learning - no room for pride. I can't tell you how many times my Filipino friends and I just laugh at each other for an incorrect use of a word, or a mispronunciation of a word (as in their English), or getting words mixed up and lines crossed. A good thing for future missionaries to think about! It's not about natural ability in language but about humility, trusting in God's wisdom, and lots of hard work, study, and working with the people.

I'm sure every missionary has this experience, but I now often have conversations with Filipinos who see me and want to try out their English, and instead of hearing English they hear Cebuano! They ask me questions and communicate to me only in English, and I answer all their questions in *their native tongue*! How strange is that!? Reminds me of Pentecost.

All pastors, preachers, and Christians with experience in ministry, know that formal preaching and presentation of Biblical truth in a pulpit is a world of difference from personal work. Although I have been preaching every Sunday in Cebuano for a couple months now, I had my first personal witness 100% in Cebuano this month, listening to his questions and giving a Biblical answer. IT JUST THRILLS MY SOUL! PRAISE THE LORD! Please pray for this very confused Roman Catholic Pentacostal who thinks his good works and speaking in tongues will some day yield eternal life. His name is Gabriel.



We had a short trip up to Cebu to renew our expired passports and made it just in time before expiration. It was an exhausting trip but praise the Lord we recovered about 3 days after our return. Pictured above are the boys taking a snooze in the hotel. Next to that is a sign in a bar in the Cebu airport espousing the world's philosophy - "stop thinking start drinking." Turn off your brain, stop thinking about the realities of life and your relationship to God and just get lost in the Devil's drink. I am deeply saddened for the Filipinos who fall for this, and I hope for the reverse - "stop drinking, and start thinking - ABOUT GOD!" The Philippines being mostly Roman Catholic makes this difficult, but through the preaching of the word of God and the new birth we pray many receive the new life in Christ Jesus!

Pictured next is a nearly completed bamboo house. Everything on our property is made of bamboo which keeps costs very low - bamboo fence, bamboo house, bamboo church. All of it in NATIVE style! We appreciate your continued help and support that has been sent to us so far! We have raised about \$4,000 and still need another \$16,000 to complete everything including a well.

The ministries continue steadily as the word of God is taught and preached. I greatly rejoice that the spirit at the Hall of Justice Branch 2 has changed for the better. At first they were not too receptive, but after several months of preaching there, they are actually enjoying it and being friendly! They are all lost Roman Catholics, but they are listening, and I can see the Lord convicting their hearts! praise the Lord!

JESUS IS COMING SOON!
- The White Family

