



# DAVE & MARGIE STAFFORD

SERVING IN THE PHILIPPINES

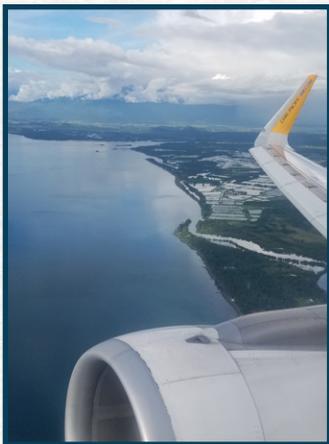


NOVEMBER 2019

At the time of writing we are just days away from Margie and I leaving for our trip back to Mindanao. I was last there in April of this year, and it seems eons away since then! Of course, I've continued regular contact with the young people that I'm able to mentor and pastor and the adults we're deepening our relationships with. Pastoring from 9,000 miles and a 13-hour time difference can be challenging, however it brings untold rewards as I see these young people and families grow as Christ-followers! An additional difficulty is the fact I speak no significant amount of the heart language of these fantastic young people! But they are growing in confidence in their written English and more importantly WHO they are in Christ. (As Col 3:3 says, [their] lives are hidden in Christ, in God.) They desire to be encouraged and supported, advised and disciplined in the ways of God and also in their lifestyle choices.



The truth is, like all young people, they are sponges, they will soak in anything, whether things of the world, or the ways of God. There is no vacuum in the world, so either we help fill it with Godly wisdom or else the enemy of our soul will fill them full of toxic humanism which drives them away from God, not usually towards God. Please understand by partnering with Margie and I, you are standing with us as we do all we know to disciple and mature every young person that the Lord leads us to in deepening relationship. That in essence is why I desire to spend longer and longer in territory because the world's onslaught isn't a part-time happening, no! It's a daily bombardment of the identity and sexuality of Filipino's who are coping with very difficult environments and, for the most part, abject poverty. Every young person we can instill the Word of God into and build up their self-esteem and self-confidence in WHO GOD says they are, is a major victory in the life of a Filipino Christ-Follower. YOU are as much a part of this as we are! Without your partnership of prayer and support we'd not be able to do what I believe the Lord has called us to do, save the lost and disciple the saved, so that "YNWA" and "Live Loved" become their spiritual inheritance on the earth today! Do I sound passionate, I hope so!!!



We've shipped many boxes (8) over to the Philippines during the summer, in advance of our arrival in Kimaya. It's the most we've ever sent in a single year thus far. These boxes are a well know Filipino tradition known as "Balikbayan Boxes" which literally means "repatriation boxes" This is used extensively amongst Filipino Overseas Workers, as is the remittance of funds back to family in the Philippines. Our boxes contain lots of practical items from shoes and clothing to school supplies, health and hygiene products. They will be given out at outreaches and as gifts for all occasions. One of the main goals we want to accomplish on this trip is providing bath towels to families in Kimaya. More often than not they may have only one towel to share among a family of 8-12 people. So, we hope to bless around 30 families with the practical love of Jesus giving them a new bath towel.

CONTINUE ON BACK



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On this trip we're hoping that the pace will be less hectic than previous trips and that we can spend some quality time with some of the ladies in the village and also for Dave to reconnect with some of Pastors that also need some encouragement. Please be in prayer for the the Manlanta family. They are the backbone of TRADE Ministry, headed up by my dear friend Edith Manlanta Stanley. Edith's husband John, a dear friend, has lost his battle with cancer just as we were leaving for the Philippines. Also pray for the remainder of Manlanta family. They lost their youngest brother Tox, tragically to a motorcycle accident in September. He was only 53, a great person, and family man who loved God. He had the most beautiful smile. We would hope to spend some time with Edith, John's mom Phyllis and Tox's wife and sons in supporting and encouraging them. Pray for Tox's son, Ray, who now has the responsibility to continue with his Papa's construction business and he is only in his mid-twenties..



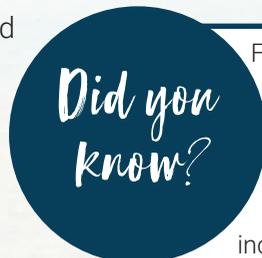
Poverty is not a lack but a spiritual mindset by the enemy of our soul to keep people from fulfilling their God-given destiny. If we can touch the lives of the poor, and at the same time give them opportunity, then this mindset of an impoverished spirit can be broken, and hope, Godly hope, can arise with these dear people.

Please pray for divine encounters and divine appointments during our time on Mindanao. Please uphold Margie's wellbeing and health during our near month-long stay. Pray that as the Word of God goes forth it shall accomplish the task set before it and not return empty. (Isaiah 55:11) We know the Word encourages us that if He, Jesus, be lifted up, then He will draw all men unto Himself. (John 12:32) Pray that we lift up Jesus with boldness and in reverential fear, so that many will give their lives over to the Lordship of Jesus!



Remember to "Live Loved!" and with the Lord "You'll Never Walk Alone!"

- Dave & Margie Stafford



Four out of the top 5 poorest regions in the Philippines are in Mindanao, according to data from the 2015 Family Income and Expenditure Survey. Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula), Region X (Northern Mindanao), Region XII (Soccsksargen), Region XIII (Caraga), and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) registered poverty incidence above 39% in 2015. The national average for poverty incidence is 26.3% [ we are based and ministering in Region X (10)].



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