



DAVE & MARGIE STAFFORD

SERVING IN THE PHILIPPINES



AUGUST - OCTOBER 2020

In a world of change and cliché, I for one am secure in the God who never changes! Whilst the world swirls in a maelstrom of virus restrictions, on and off, relaxed or tightened, of political crisis, racial unrest and social tensions, wars, this same God, Yahweh, is still advancing His Kingdom. And how much different is His Kingdom compared to the kingdoms of this world? Paul writing to the church in Rome says, "for the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Romans 14:17 NKJV

From the coming of Jesus to usher in the kingdom, through the whole story of redemptive history and the Church, we see a clear picture of the God Kingdom plan and purpose. John the Baptist used it often as he called the masses "repent, for the kingdom of God is near" (Matthew 3:2). Jesus Christ himself not only said, "the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe" (Matthew 4:17) but he also used it when teaching his disciples how to pray "your kingdom come" (Matthew 6:10), in the Beatitudes "theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3 and 10), and at the Last Supper "I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God" (Mark 14:25).

Why am I laboring all this? Because the concept of the Kingdom of God is a stark difference to what's happening on the earth today! And I'm convinced that focusing on the Kingdom is the only way to work out our life and calling here on earth.

Even though I can't get to the Philippines right now, the same as many of my missionary friends who still find themselves displaced from their mission field, the work of Live Loved has continued. Across 9,000 miles and a 13-hour time difference, I've still been able to mentor and encourage, advise, pray and when required do homework and help shape messages for those who have asked. We've seen great results because God's Kingdom bears fruit! The young people of the Chosen Generation have been maturing on an almost daily basis. Not only faithfully supporting their own small church in Kimaya but they have formed 3 groups, Love, Joy, and Peace, with one of the groups taking turns weekly in reaching out to neighboring churches in Consuelo and Kandis to encourage and minister in song to those fellow believers. Their new district Pastor held a 3-day crusade in September and I'm thrilled to be able to say that the family I highlighted last September, the Rodriguez family, well Papa Titing gave his life to the Lord and was baptized, along with others like the Junrey Mendoza, whose family I minister to and whose younger two sisters that I support and mentor. The Kingdom is always advancing!

CONTINUE ON BACK >>



PASTOR RICHARD LABORS IN TRIBAL OUTREACH NEAR MALIBUD



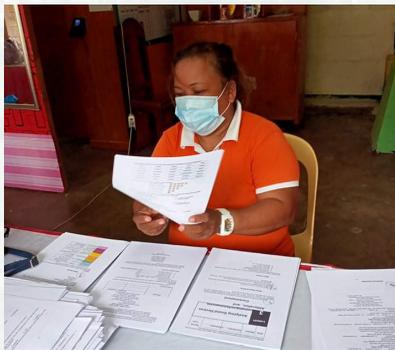
NEW TIN ROOF AT KIMAYA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



YOUR PAPER BEING USED AT CONSUELO ELEMENTARY



RECEIVING YOUR GIFTS, MAAM TERESA & MAAM CASIEL NEAREST THE CAMERA



MAAM TERESA WORKING ON YOUR PAPER CONSUELO ELEMENTARY



GIFTS FOR TEACHERS AT KIMAYA ELEMENTARY



BALIKBAYAN BOXES LATEST TO GO

Pastor Richard Labor has had his ministry to the tribal families severely diminished because of the travel restrictions imposed through Covid19 and on one occasion had to cancel because police intelligence restricted travel because of terrorist activity. This is a rare event in Northern Mindanao, but nonetheless still a threat.

Schools and colleges are partially open and operating on a system of online internet-based assignments and midterm exams, using "Google Meetings" as a virtual classroom. Sounds great but the internet connections are atrocious at best! And the other method is known as modular. This works on the principle of going into school for one day, say Monday. Being given printed material and then going home and doing your assigned work. Returning again on say Thursday, handing in your work and receiving the next set of lessons and assignments, and then going back home to study. I've posted photos of the living conditions for these young people; they are not conducive to studying at all. Plus, truly little teacher interaction except through some virtual classroom scenario, and with little to no signal strength on a smart phone, it's simply appalling. I was approached by two elementary schools, one in Kimaya and one in Consuelo to assist in the production of the printed materials. They had extremely basic needs, no paper, no ink, and not enough printers. Well, I'm pleased to say that through your funding we were able to buy cases and cases of printer paper for both schools. The teachers and principals were extremely grateful. Let me say, "thank you" to you from these dedicated staff for helping them with this basic need. This on top of paying for a new corrugated tin roof for Kimaya Elementary. We are seen as stakeholders in both these Elementary Schools, opening doors for the preaching of the Gospel to a captive, and willing, audience.

Although I can't usually meet the Philippines needs time frames, I can and do, buy supplies when they are greatly reduced in the USA, and then ship them over to the Philippines so that at some point they will have their needs met. We've shipped 7 large and 7 small balikbayan boxes to the Philippines so far this year. They have contained lots of school supplies, clothes, basic hygiene products, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc., shoes, underwear and for Pastor Richard a very robust and large 65-liter backpack so he can convey items on his back up to the tribal families. With the buying power of Globe, I was able to purchase 4 fully refurbished laptops including fully installed Microsoft office software. One of my students, Jeza, had her original laptop crash and she doesn't know a replacement is on its way! It will be a surprise 20th birthday gift when it does arrive. (shipping from Pensacola to Butuan on Mindanao usually takes around 3 months, but it's the most economical way to get any quantity of goods to them. Large boxes cost \$90 and the small ones \$30, you can do the math on shipping costs this year!)

None of these essentials could happen if it wasn't for you! Thank you! I'm still a long way from being fully funded as a missionary. It's my goal to play a part in advancing God's Kingdom in the Philippines and couldn't do it without faithful partners like you, both in prayer and in practical needs like finance.

Please consider partnering with us, we need you! Finally, let me give a shout out to my administrative team in our Globe International office. They are magnificent! The fees I pay for their services are worth every penny and more! I thank God for my leadership and oversight team, who support and encourage, guide me and when needed admonish and of course, correct me. Thank you, you know who you are!

Thank you for partnering with us in prayer and finances. We couldn't do this without your help.

Remember to Live Loved and #YNWA - *Dave & Margie Stafford*



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DAVE & MARGIE STAFFORD

A PERSONAL UPDATE

Dear friends,

It's difficult to know where to start and to what to say whilst also remaining sensitive in what I'm about to share. For some time now I have been concerned over Margie's memory. Being married for 31 years you get a feel for the person you live with and as such I was noticing little things that Margie was doing that were out of character for her normal levels of perfectionism! In July of 2019, there came a time when we had a conversation around a subject that we had discussed the day before. During this conversation Margie was saying that the previous day's conversation hadn't taken place. Once we got over the back and forth of "I did tell you" "No you didn't" there was a realization, on my part, that Margie was, in her world, hearing this conversation for the first time. I was stunned. I withdrew to the bedroom and cried out to God. The result was my commitment to the Lord to be more patient with Margie and serve her as best as I could. I slowly began to try and point things out to her, but to no avail. Margie simply couldn't see what I was seeing and experiencing. And I could understand that, but that did not help me. I didn't know what to do because we'd never been down this road before. Fast forward to May 2020. I pleaded with Margie to allow me to have her memory assessed for my sake, so I could know how to better serve her. She saw how hurt I was by my lack of knowledge in caring for her. So, she agreed to be assessed.

My Pastor, Mike Collins, and my dear friend Doctor Mike Jacobs recommended a neurologist here in Pensacola named Henry Porter. It normally takes 3 months to get an initial appointment with him, but because of Covid19 virus, lots of patients had canceled and we got an appointment for 3 days later! Thank you Jesus! The result was a series of tests to evaluate Margie's mental well being in the area of memory. She did not fare well, sad to say. The resulting diagnosis was that Margie was suffering mild-moderate dementia on the Alzheimer's scale. She was prescribed medication to help slow down the decay, but she didn't tolerate it at all. That has been stopped. The second medication prescribed we have had to stop at the time of writing because it appears Margie is reacting negatively to it. We are due to see the Dr by the time you receive this update. Let me say Margie is only in early stages. In lots of ways she functions well and is able to cope admirably while I am at work.

However, Margie is growing frustrated. As you can imagine, it's also increasing her insecurity and anxiety. Now whether she recognizes it or not, I can see a great lack of confidence and growing frustration at looking for things she has misplaced.

Those of you who have known Margie will know she is a very private person and not one to be in the spotlight. Also, because she is struggling with coming to terms with her diagnosis, and who wouldn't be, she may not appreciate me telling you. But I do so, not as criticism of my wife's situation, but to enlist your prayer support. I share all that because you are part of our family, who love and support us, and we need your prayer support, I need your prayer support.

Quick update on me, Dave. I have been having a problem with my right knee for a few months. Turns out I have a torn meniscus. I am due for surgery in October and my doctor, Joey Carter, is a strong Christ-follower and I am expecting God to use this brother's gift to help get me back on my feet, pain-free! I'll keep you posted.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and support, we value you very much!
Live Loved #YNWA

- Dave & Margie Stafford



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