



DAVE & MARGIE STAFFORD

SERVING IN THE PHILIPPINES



ISAIAH 43:1-5

YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE

SEPTEMBER 2022

Before we recall some further God moments from the recent Easter trip, an update on just what's been happening for Margie and me. Margie is 81 and we wonder how many more long plane trips she can handle. So, we have decided that at least we should try one more, therefore we are flying back to New Zealand this coming December, ostensibly to visit with Margie's eldest daughter's family. Our last trip saw us locked down for almost 7 weeks at the beginning at the outbreak of Covid-19. We were in New Zealand for our eldest grandson's wedding and the plan was for Margie to stay with family while I did an Easter outreach in the Philippines. I was locked out of the Philippines, and we were both held in very strict lockdown conditions in New Zealand. Since then, Simon and Sheridan have given birth to Hugo, Margie's great grandson who will celebrate his first year's birthday while we are with them. During the trip, it's my intention to go and make a quick visit to Mindanao. For two reasons, one to give Margie an opportunity for some quality time with her daughter and grandchildren and two, to minister in the Advent season on Mindanao. Without wishing to be morbid, just real, this is likely the last chance that maybe the New Zealand family will get to have any physical contact with their mum/nannie.

You may remember in our last newsletter we recalled giving people the opportunity to read the Word of God in their own heart language, which, as you know for our ministry is Cebuano /Bisayan/Visayan. In my last newsletter we spoke about getting Bibles from a trip to CDO City. Well, some of those bibles were given to a lady, whose name is Juditha Militares and a teacher at Consuelo Elementary School. Ma'am Militares approached me, rather shyly, as I was leaving my meeting at the school and wondered if I could provide her with a Bible. She explained that she attended the local Assemblies of God church in Consuelo and that neither she nor the church had any Bibles in their own dialect. How sad and how much different from our own experiences in the western church.



Picking up Bibles in CDO



Juditha teaches at Consuelo Elementary



The school sits right on the main National Hwy



Ma'am Juditha and Manuel Militares



Sharing God's Word



National Hwy Barangay Consuelo



Looking north towards Consuelo on the National Hwy

I didn't promise her anything, I seldom do, as I usually don't know the logistics of agreeing to the many requests we receive, such as getting a Bible or helping in other ways. But because I was able to take Pastor Labor for his Bibles I bought some extras. I then arranged through my contact at the school, to reach out to this lady (whose name I didn't know at the time) to meet with her and celebrate this blessing from the Lord. When I arrived back at the school a few days later, I met Juditha and her husband Manuel, who is the custodian of the school. They were gifted Bibles for both their family and their church family, and it was a thrill to be able to meet this need. Days afterwards another teacher from the school, reached out to me thanking us for the gifts. She was the daughter of Juditha and Manuel and wanted to thank me on their behalf. This lady's name is Jemimah, named after one of Job's daughters. The only downside, if you could call it that, was that the other teachers at the school all asked for one (nice problem to have eh!!!) Typical cost of a Bible is around \$10 US, so if you'd like to bless somebody with a Bible in their own language please kindly donate and mark your gift as Bible and we'll do the rest.

UPDATE!!!! As I finished this newsletter late September, Margie had been quite ill, with chest pains and vomiting which saw her taken into Sacred Heart by ambulance. After two days of being in hospital, they cleared her of possible cardiac issues. But she was weak on her return home and somewhat confused, which may well be the effects of the dementia. Please pray for her! God is able!

Thank you all for your continued support, because without you we couldn't minister God's message of salvation and love. On every level, prayerfully, financially, and emotionally you are the engine room for our reaching out to a people in need in Mindanao.

Live Loved, and remember that with Jesus You'll Never Walk Alone! #YNWA

- Dave & Margie Stafford



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