



DAVE & MARGIE STAFFORD

SERVING IN THE PHILIPPINES

ISAIAH 43:1-5

YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE

APRIL 2023

Hello everybody,

Thank you for all the messages of support that Margie and I have received since we sent our March update out. It means a great deal to both of us.

At the time of writing, we are in Jesus' Passion week, that has both the tragic horror of death by crucifixion and the gloriously outstanding triumph of resurrection life! That very same life that now resides in each of us who have given our lives over to the Lordship of the Messiah, Christ is Risen, and we are the fruit of His resurrection power. He was the first fruit of the resurrection and because He lives, we are made ALIVE in Him! Happy Resurrection Day everybody!



Gingoog City Christmas 2022



Oroquieta City Christmas 2022

the Philippines are always asking when we are returning and can't we stay longer. It's nice to be wanted!

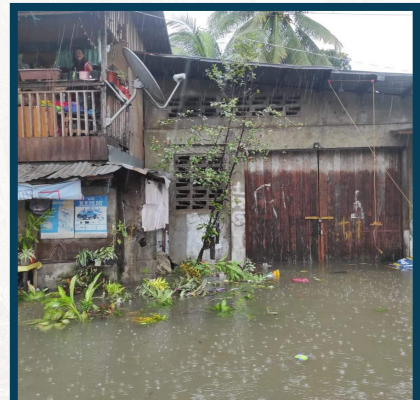
I had to put a stake in the ground time-wise, even though some graduation dates are not yet confirmed (Filipino time of course!) because of the rising costs and availability. My host family the Bendoy's are helping facilitate my stay and organize some in-territory logistics like picking me up from Butuan airport and car hire etc. Even the teachers can't give firm dates, and I've inquired enough times!

We did receive some sad news, Monday March 27th, that Margie's brother Arthur had suddenly died, what a shock! Apparently, he'd become ill, was taken into hospital and didn't survive. It seems he died of a stomach cancer. Arthur was the closest brother in age to Margie, 83 to her near 82 in May. Growing up they used to fight like cat and dog, but Margie loved him very much. Arthur was a character, and surely walked to the beat of his own drum. Please pray for all the Scarisbrick family (Margie's maiden name) because of the shock and the grief they are experiencing.

Meanwhile, I'm pleased to be able to say that a dear friend of ours came forward and volunteered to stay with Margie, night and day, in order that I can make the next trip to Mindanao. What an unexpected blessing. The Lord has moved on behalf to arrange this. As a result, I've been jumping through the logistics hoops of hunting down pricing and routes that work for me to be able to return in May-June. It will not be an extended trip, even though all my relationships and partners in



A young child gets unexpected blessing selling his fern leaf veggies at Pastor Bendoy's door.



And the rains came down



Christmas in Oroquieta 2022



Oroquieta City Street



Police offering some assistance



Selection of items we ship about to be distributed

A series of low-pressure advisories were in place which caused severe floods and heavy rain all through late December and January. Gingoog, Kimaya and Consuelo suffered badly over the Christmas period including Christmas Day. I had messages coming in with video of the homes of young people I mentor, awash on Christmas Day. Further south around Oroquieta City, the city from which Pastor Sherwood and Father Jerry were born and raised, experienced life threatening flooding and mud slides. But I say this because your support is sending practical love of Jesus across the Philippines including relief to those in Oroquieta City and Gingoog City, via the Bendoy family connections.

It has repeatedly delayed Pastor Labor's Christ Ambassadors visit to the mountains to distribute the bibles we purchased in December and other clothing items. It'll likely be after Easter now given both the weather conditions and the state of the roads/ tracks. Gifts given out in the Name of Christ during times of calamity make an impact, as well we know from disasters here in the USA. People just want to know they are not alone or forgotten.

As late as the last week of March (2023) the Gingoog to Claveria road before Civoleg suffered a major landslide and the road was impassible. It was cleared sufficiently enough in 3 days to reopen to one way traffic. I use this road getting to Civoleg, the only other route via the coast and up the other side of the mountain would be nearly 2 hours one way.

By the way, please continue pray for Pastor Sherwood. You will recall he sat the Philippines Bar exam last November and at the time of writing the legal system hasn't released the nationwide results. Current thinking is they may be released the week after Easter. Please stand with us in prayer for a passing result soon!

I am pleased to say at the time of writing that we've raised 42% (\$2,100) towards my budget for the Mindanao trip, a BIG thank you to those who have contributed, it's continuing to show us that you believe in the mission that God has laid within me and I'm trying my best to execute that which burns in me for these needy souls. There's still time to support me in any way you can and for certain that includes standing in prayer with me for finances to be met and mission outcomes to glorify the Lord.

Please contact Globe directly with any support you may wish to offer.

Thank you once again for all your continued support, because, as I try to remind you, without you we couldn't minister as effectively God's message of salvation and love.

On every level, you are empowering us in reaching out to people in need on Mindanao.

Live Loved and remember, that with Jesus You'll Never Walk Alone! #YNWA - Dave & Margie Stafford



Clearing begins



Landslide Closure



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