



DAVE & MARGIE STAFFORD

SERVING IN THE PHILIPPINES



AUGUST 2023

Hello everybody,

Sorry my newsletter is late getting out to you all, but when I arrived back from the Philippines, I was only home for 6 days before flying Margie over to the UK, ostensibly for the wedding of my nephew Philip, but in reality a great opportunity for Margie to visit with our family and friends for what could be her last time this side of eternity, only God knows.



Graduation Irah and Jeza

Thank you to everybody who participated in sending me to Mindanao, by way of prayer and financial support. I felt the trip was a great success, although very short, too short. As you know the principal reason was to see some of the young people we've been supporting and sponsoring, proudly walk with cap and gown to receive their 4-year degrees. A great achievement, with one family having a brother and sister graduate from different colleges in different disciplines and their other brother, who is based in Manila with his Lola (grandmother) due to graduate this autumn in engineering. These are remarkable young people, studying and coping with very difficult living conditions, and having to perform to very high standards. All of the young people I know, who have climbed a personal "Mount Everest" in achieving their degrees, I applaud their tenacity, courage, and dedication to keep on keeping on. Well done to you all!

By the way, who knew that the number one professional tune in the USA and the Philippines is Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" (aka Land of Hope and Glory) Only I knew the words of this very well-known British patriotic piece, haha!

Thankfully, my luggage arrived with me at every stage of the journey and coming back was much lighter, having offloaded a load of gifts and leaving one suitcase with a family, as a much-needed closet. The journey home was interrupted by a mechanical issue with the United plane out of Tokyo, Narita which necessitated an overnight stay at a hotel and onward flights back to Pensacola the following day.



Crossing Andrews Ave over Skyway Manila

As you can imagine, every day was "up and at 'em!" I was in Mindanao for two weekends, subsequently both Friday-Saturdays I was up in the rainforest elevations above Gingoog



Dinner with Bendoy family.

City, ministering at Civoleg Adventist Church whilst staying with my hosts Pastor Sherwood and Ma'am Rose Bendoy. Rose has become my oldest daughter, and fondly addresses me as LoloDaddy Dave (Lolo is grandfather). The church was preparing to hold a crusade, which was to be run by some returning overseas Filipino workers, in essence a mission trip. I enjoy great fellowship with these dear saints at Civoleg and the cooler climate at 3,000 feet suits me well! And like all Filipino's they like to eat, and we held a church lunch to demonstrate the practical love of Jesus, that He does care enough to feed them both food for living and bread of life for eternal sustenance. This was equally true at Consuelo Community Church, where Pastor Labor had me preach both of the Sundays. It's a pleasant, early Sunday morning journey to drive back down the mountain and north along the coast to Barangay Consuelo but by the time it's over I have become my own personal rainforest of my own making!

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Consuelo Elementary School

I visited both of the Elementary Schools that we are stakeholders in, Kimaya and Consuelo. I had the chance to speak with the principals of both. Please pray for Kimaya Principal, Gemma, who is recovering from a stroke and has difficulty with the sight of her right eye and slowing of memory. I saw the progress our donation dollars had made at both the front gate area and the new covered tin roof at the multipurpose platform/classroom/stage location. We donated some money to complete the roof so that it would all be ready ahead of the middle of July graduation ceremony. The staff are thrilled that we remember them and partner with them.



New roof at Kimaya Elementary

Consuelo is the larger of the two schools with around 350 students, compared with just under 200 at Kimaya. There are characters at both schools and we always have a fun time of fellowship. There was an internal window and adjacent door situation that needed fixing, i.e. install a window and door to the Principal Mercado's office and give separation between her and the admin staff for privacy and noise concerns. It took two donations, one at the time of my visit and another on my return back to Pensacola to be able to cover the costs. They are sooo grateful for our ability to practically bless them. As ever, we usually donate drinks and snacks to the staff along with some boxes of copy paper. Who doesn't need boxes of printer paper, eh!!!!

Again, all of this and other activity, is only to remind people that Jesus loves them and that the Heavenly Father has not forgotten them. From a bar of soap to a new substantial tin roof, the message has to remain the same, the reason we do what we do is to demonstrate the practical love of Jesus and the faithfulness of the Father.

I visited with as many families as I could in the short time I had and even though the meetings were brief, they were meaningful.

In closing, let me give a shout out to graduates Oliver and Anghelo, Irah, Jeza, Xobe, Vienna, Kimberly, Danilyn, Abigel, Jonalyn and many more. Well done for sticking to your goals
Thank you once again for all your continued support, please contact Globe directly with any financial support you may wish to offer. Your involvement is changing lives across the other side of the world!

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

- Dave & Margie Stafford



Irah Montederamos,
Social Work Graduate



Jeza Lameon,
Nursing Graduate



MONTERAMOS, OLIVER C.
Bachelor of Science in Agriculture - Major in Animal Science

Oliver Montederamos,
Agricultural studies



Danilyn and Jonalyn
graduating High School



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