



DAVE & MARGIE STAFFORD

SERVING IN THE PHILIPPINES



NOVEMBER 2023

“Oh, the times they are a changin....” the youthful, haunting voice of Bob Dylan has been resonating around and around in my head for some months now.

To start, let me recall a meeting with a friend of ours, her name is Margaret Brown, and she is present with the Lord now. It was Christmas of the year 2000 and we were sitting in our living room in a suburb of north Liverpool known as Waterloo. Margie and I have just returned from a holiday in the United States where I had a severe attack of sciatica and on returning to the UK I was off work because of the pain. During our time of fellowship, I heard the Lord drop into my mind “I’ve moved the goalposts” You know God speaks in the vernacular to us!! And thus began the pursuit of what did Yahweh mean and where or what was He referring to? I began to ponder all of this and as a result, I arranged a meeting with the director I was reporting to at my company. In that meeting I informed him of what the Lord had said to me, and that the pursuit of what God was requiring of me could mean I may leave at some point in the future and therefore felt I should remove my name from any potential promotions or relocations within the company, being fair to him. He thought I was mad, and certainly had never heard anything like this before in his life. I took the opportunity to share the need for Jesus in our lives as Lord and Savior. Within 2 years I had resigned my position and enrolled at Bible School in Pensacola and the rest is, as they say, history. But during our 20 years in the US, I never felt that I had discovered where Yahweh had repositioned the goalposts and so I continued to be on the lookout for them.



Looking down on Kimaya coastal highway

A few years ago, Dr. Mike Jacobs, who knew this story, asked me if had I found where God had moved the goalposts to? (Many who knew thought it was the positioning of Margie and I in the USA) My reply to Dr Jacobs was “I believe I have, and it seems it’s the Philippines” This realization came after ministering for a few years in the Philippines and at the same time seeing my ministry in the USA changing. More recently I became aware that the Lord was stirring things in such a way that taking care of Margie and being able to minister could be best achieved by relocating us to Mindanao and being about the Father’s business.



Rosie and Margie at Kimaya Elementary School

After confirmation from several sources, unsolicited and independent of each other, as far away as the UK, Hawaii, Mindanao, and closer to home, within the USA and Pensacola, we felt that a relocation to the Philippines was indeed the way forward. Subsequently, conversations have been held with Globe leadership, my Pastor, other partners, and dear friends. All are understanding of the situations we face and have been positive, very supportive, and encouraging.

We never thought that this would be possible given our age and circumstances, but we do believe that this has the fingerprints of the Lord all over it. To be on a more flexible schedule and to be available to Margie and those I’ve been ministering to since 2015, seems a win-win. In saying all this, do I think it’s an easy decision to make? Not at all, it’s challenging on many fronts, a mixture of terror and excitement to be about the Father’s business. There is a lot more of an unfolding back story we could share, but suffice to say, we are at the stage where we are gathering paperwork and documents required for any move to the Philippines and as such, felt it was time to include our family of partners, in order to elicit your prayers and your practical, financial support. I’m still working on practical issues, like apostilled documents, visa requirements and working through a ministry -lifestyle plan including relocation costs and a monthly budget, more on that once I’ve finalized everything, it’s work in progress. Please be prayerfully considering all I’ve shared for what is needed to live and minister in northern Misamis Oriental for our remaining years should the Lord tarry.

Simply put, if you love me and want to see the back of me...then pay me to go!! Couldn’t resist this sarcastic approach to ask you to send us to be Jesus with skin on to a ripe harvest field.

We welcome any and all feedback because you are important to us and we’ve only been able to go because you send us and we’re willing. As you can imagine things will begin to accelerate as God moves and so, please be praying for us both. As more progress – information, becomes available I’ll update you all and of course feel free to reach out and speak with me about this update or anything else about the ministry of Live Loved to the people of Mindanao.

Live Loved and remember, that with Jesus You’ll Never Walk Alone. #YNWA

- Dave & Margie Stafford



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