

Paul & Ellen Byars

Missionaries to the Philippines

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Dear Pastor, church and friends,

I can truly say that the 3rd quarter was a time of great gladness and sadness. Let me start with the things that make us shout.

The last youth camp was conducted in 2019 and since then the camp grounds have been shut down by the government for pandemic concerns. But this year the young people were allowed to return to the mountain campsite for their spiritual refreshment and challenges from God's Word. We had a shortage of transportation and was only able to take our College/Career Class to the Youth Camp 2022. We had 39 campers on the mountaintop for that week. I am so thankful for the decisions that were made. Five surrendered to serve the Lord and enroll in Bible College. Seven dedicated their lives to serve the Lord in extension, soul winning and visitation ministry.

Sadly we had to leave over 100 high schoolers behind. They may have been left behind, but they were not forgotten. We hosted our own 3 day youth camp at the church a few weeks after the C&C class returned home. Ninety two high school teens joined our in-house youth camp. One came forward to surrender as a future pastor. Fourteen came forward with a decision to serve the Lord in visitation, soul winning and extension ministry. These young people are now engaged in our Saturday Extension classes for boys and girls throughout our community. The extension classes are now reaching over 400 boys and girls each Saturday.

It is a joy to work with these precious young people. They have such a tender heart to serve the Lord. But the gospel doesn't just reach the young. While on visitation and soul winning, our staff met Nanay (mother) Alipio. She was 91 years old and she gladly received Christ as her Saviour. Her immediate family also got saved. The next Sunday the family was in church. After a few weeks Nanay Alipio wanted to talk to me after the service. I kneel down by her wheelchair, she said, 'Pastor, can I be baptized?' A few weeks later we helped this aged saint follow the Lord in water baptism. Two months later she passed away in her sleep, but awoke in the arms of her Saviour. It is never too late to get saved and obey the Lord.

There are things that make you glad, but there are things that sadden and burden the heart. Let me ask you to pray for two special servants. First, Pastor Willy Losa. Willy was our first sent out mission pastor to the Bicol Region 7 years ago. This year he had both legs amputated and he is on dialysis three times a week. He has stepped down from the pulpit and is just trying to survive. One of our staff man is taking the mission work and is doing well. Pray for Willy and wife.



Another concern is for a young staff man. His name is Jowie Elmundo. He graduated from Bible college last May and was preparing for the mission field. In June he noticed that he was turning a yellowish tint. He was losing weight and energy. After testing, the doctors discovered that he had stage 4 cancer spreading through his 23 year old body. This is such a shock to the church and young people. May I ask you to also remember him in your prayers. We are trusting for the best, but know that God knows even better.

Ellen and I want to say how thankful we are for your faithful love for souls in the Philippines. This quarter God blessed us with 36 professions of faith and 105 first time visitors in church. May God bless us all.

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