



THE BLUSTS

EMPIRE BAPTIST TEMPLE • PASTOR ERICH P. McCANDLESS, PHD
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Dear Pastor and Brethren,

March-April 2022 Prayer, Praise & Progress Report

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Perla and I celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary on April 6! This date reminds me again of how blessed I am to have a saved surrendered Bible based Baptist spouse and friend. God sure has been good to me over the years with this special and amazing wife. What a joy to have a companion like her on this journey in life. May God continue to bless us as we serve His holy purpose. She is responsible for so much of what God has done in our ministry. I would never have made it this far without the Lord Jesus Christ and her. She is truly a Proverbs 31 woman, and I am deeply humbled and full of thankfulness that God blessed me with such a special lady (my beloved bride). We have compassion for souls and willingness to be a blessing to impact people's lives. One of the great joys of our laboring for the LORD is to see repentant saved souls get radically changed by the grace of God.

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

1. Befriended, evangelized and were adopted into the Higaonon Tagaloanon Tribe Malaybalay City last year (with certificate of adoption papers on December 28, 2021). Three Datu's (tribal leaders) and ten tribal people got saved. They repented of their sin and depravity of fornications, adulteries, drunkenness and chicken sacrifice worship. We also do ministry with the Higaonon Tagaloanon Tribe at their ancestral homeland in the Impasugong mountains. We ride on separate motorbikes driven by young tribal men (who drive very fast) on very narrow (just inches wide) rocky, bumpy, sometimes muddy paths (when it rains or crossing creeks) up, in and around mountains for an hour and a half. Upon arrival, they warmly welcome us and then we conduct evangelistic Bible studies. Fifteen tribal people got saved including Yandong (33) who is now our surrendered tribal pastor in training. As I teach him, he preaches, teaches and pastors his tribe in Impasugong. Their past questions "What's the difference between animal blood vs Jesus blood?" "What's the purpose of repentance?" "Which Bible is the true Bible?" "What is an independent Baptist Church?" "How to be an independent Baptist church?" Answered their questions, gave Gospel tracts and Bible material. Afterward, they feed us native chicken/rice. 2. Evangelized a Muslim woman named Lovelove (34) who is open minded and asked questions about the Bible and about Christ. She said she believes Christ is Saviour, but doesn't know if He is God. We showed her Bible verses of Christ deity, but she needs time to think. 3. Evangelized a man named Kentmar (23). He struggles walking. We asked what happened? He received two medical injections last year that caused him high blood pressure, myocarditis heart inflammation, kidney failure, lung breathing issues. He sought help at two hospitals. The last doctor said these are the side effects. Nothing they can do. Shared hope in God's Word, he repented and believed the Gospel of Christ. 4. Evangelized the grandniece of a former Philippine president at the Higaonon Tagaloanon Tribal Building in Malaybalay City. I talked about the Word of God, man's sin and man's need of salvation, repentance and the Gospel of Christ. She talked about her relative's political history (showed evidence/photos), public misinformation, political and current issues, and other developments. The niece (63) is a Catholic, lives locally, sometime attends our Sunday meetings. 5. Evangelized Michael Esabante (20+), Catholic, attends our midweek Bible study and trying to get Sunday off. 6. Larry (18), Pentecostal, Talakag mountains in Misamis Oriental, planning to relocate and attend our Bible school. 7. Mina Manlangit (77) and Julia Umalis (21) are tribal people got saved on Sunday January 23 in San Fernando. 8. Five Fundamental Protestant families in Magkalungay San Fernando abandoned by their pastor (lack of financial support). They are allowing us to conduct evangelistic Bible studies. Twelve people saved in February and March.

APPRECIATION TO THE LORD'S BAPTIST CHURCHES

Much thankfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ, EBT and our supporting churches for your tireless hard work, financial sacrifices and your time in faithful fervent prayer for our family and ministry in the Philippines. So that we both can do what God has called us to do. As co-labourers in Christ, we serve our wonderful Saviour and share in the blessings of our great God together in whom is all eternal riches and glory. By faith, we endeavored to see God do great things. And great things He did. By His grace, Filipinos (including Higaonon Tagaloanon Tribe) found salvation in Christ. God is good—not just because "ministry results" were produced—but because the power of the Gospel of Christ changed real lives. He has done a great thing in allowing the Good News to be known among the heathen. And you had a blessed part in making this Good News about Christ be known among the heathen. "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister" (Heb.6:10). "The LORD bless thee, and keep thee" (Num.6:24).

Jeffrey C Blust

Philippines

"People that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many" (Dan.11:32-33)

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