



THE BLUSTS

EMPIRE BAPTIST TEMPLE • PASTOR ERICH P. McCANDLESS, PHD
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July-August 2022 Prayer, Praise & Progress Report

Dear Pastor and Brethren,

Praise the LORD for an incredibly eventful two months! How exciting to be in His vineyard spreading the Gospel of Christ. God is raising up growing congregations of believers! Excited for our Filipino brothers/sisters.

Souls saved, converts in discipleship, training men in “evangelistic preaching ministry.” God is truly working. Thank you for your prayers, support and investment in our “preaching and church planting ministry” that God is using to make an eternal impact in the Philippines. There are people starving to be fed spiritual food. Thankfully, they can find it in our local Baptist congregations, and we serve up hearty meals of the Word of God that will help them grow in spiritual strength, maturity, and health. God is using His Word to change lives, and we praise Him for it! Some new believers in Christ are hoping to find work employment soon as they learn to adjust their culture to fit a life of following Christ and all that it entails, including the importance of being faithful in church attendance. Please pray for these young believers learning what it means to follow Christ (some with opposition from relatives).

Members are surrendered to the Lord and His will for their lives. They submit to His leadership and follow His divine direction with commitment, discipline, preparation and sacrifice with much value and emphasis placed on Biblical obedience. They have the privilege of sharing the Gospel of Christ with the unsaved. What an honor of serving the Lord and investing in the lives of fellow believers. This brings joy, satisfaction, blessing to our souls.

Members have grown and matured in God’s love and are guided by Biblical knowledge and discernment to live genuine, blameless and God honoring lives before Him and others. “If a man therefore purge himself..., he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work” (1 Timothy 2:21). God has called and equipped our members for service as ambassadors of Christ to a work that is superior to any known to man. They “press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). They are so blessed to have the opportunity to serve Him in any capacity. They are very thankful God has entrusted them with an assignment in His kingdom work making specific contributions which benefits the congregation. Pray for the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ being preached, even in unfavorable circumstances. Let’s be strengthened to live bold Holy Spirit-filled lives that make Jesus Christ known.

God is sovereign and in control of everything. He is supplying our member’s faith, love and peace (John 16:33; I John 4:18). Though the furnace be heated seven times over, we can pass safely and survive through it. Jesus is by our side (Hebrews 13:5-6). The Word of God instructs our beloved members “what manner of persons ye ought to be in all holy conversation and godliness” and “be diligent...be found in peace, without spot, and blameless” (2 Peter 3:10-14). They are called to practice holiness and do good to others wherever and whenever they can. They “work the works of God “while it is day” (John 9:4). We will always continue to minister to the people around us. Souls are perishing (Jude 22-23). It will be no small mercy if at the last we be found clear of the blood of all men preaching the Gospel of Christ. We long to be useful both to saints and sinners. As obedient children, we look to our Master for spiritual blessings. We beseech you BELOVED BRETHREN, PRAY FOR US!

We labor abundantly by the grace of God and for the glory of God—the One who loves us more than we ever know. We know that we couldn’t do anything without the generosity and help of the Lord and His Baptist churches. Thank you for giving, praying, serving, and being a part of our “Philippine Ministry” team. Let’s continue pressing forward and keep fighting the good fight. May God bless you abundantly, your ministries and your labor to the Lord!

Because Of His Faithfulness And Abundant Mercies ----- Let Us Go Forth And Sow The Seed!

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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