

HARDECKER HEADLINES

Independent Fundamental Baptist Missionaries to Taguig City, Philippines sent by Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Brogue, PA

Dear Faithful Friends,

Apr. 2018

There is a danger in presenting the gospel in such a way as to avoid challenging Filipino cultural narratives. Similar to the Galatian problem, religious Filipinos affirm the doctrine of the Trinity & the Deity of Christ. They believe that He is risen and seated at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. However, distinctions need to be made clear in two areas - namely authority and soteriology (the doctrine of salvation). For the Romanist, authority is found not only in the Bible, but also in tradition. In fact, Rome's Bible contains 12 more books which were never received by the churches of Christ. To that extent, even the nature of the Bible itself is a discussion that needs to happen. In their view, tradition stands on par with God's Word. Papal decrees like the 1854 Immaculate Conception, 1870 Papal Infallibility, & 1950 Assumption of Mary dogma are some of the various tenets derived outside the Holy Scriptures. Tradition must be confronted. Paul warned the Galatian churches of believing that their good works contributed to salvation thus making the sacrifice of Jesus insufficient. It is precisely this error that persists in the Filipino mindset. Well-meaning but uninformed preachers can easily get many to profess something they already believe in but still come short of the law-free gospel. Simply put, the status quo must be challenged. A clear presentation of the gospel must include teachings about the nature of the Bible and a repudiation of the traditions which have corrupted the gospel. May the love of Christ constrain us to proclaim with boldness and power the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ before it is everlastingly too late.

Praise Reports:

1. Praise the LORD for adding three more souls to our fellowship via Believer's Baptism. God is good!
2. Praise God we have seen a number of new visitors come as a direct result of our weekly tract distribution. God blessed us with two more faithful tract distributors.
3. Praise Him for granting us favor with the Tuktukan district office which allowed us to use their open space to host a week long Vacation Bible School in May.
4. Marcia is really picking up Tagalog. Every week she translates to English my Tagalog Sunday School lessons and sermon notes. AMEN!

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for our very first VBS on May 28—June 1.
2. Pray for more visitors to come and for many to return.



These three obeyed the Lord in baptism: two are a mother and daughter and the other lady is a mother of boys that faithfully attend our children's Sunday School. Pray that they would continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus.



Following the afternoon baptismal service, we enjoyed a time of feasting and spending time together.

This young girl worked very hard at home with the help of her mother to memorize all the books of the Old Testament. She worked up the courage to publicly say the books during her Sunday School class challenge. Marcia and I are so excited for her!



Marcia is starting to incorporate Tagalog words and phrases in her class! In the future, we will be able to split the Sunday School class into

two groups for a more effective classroom experience. Please continue to pray for safety and power as we minister to the children & also to the adults.

Sending Church:

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Relevant Dates and Info:

Bill (01/10) & Marcia (09/30)
Anniversary (06/15/04)
W.T. (09/14/10)
Joe (12/28/12)
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