

# mission:world

MAGAZINE

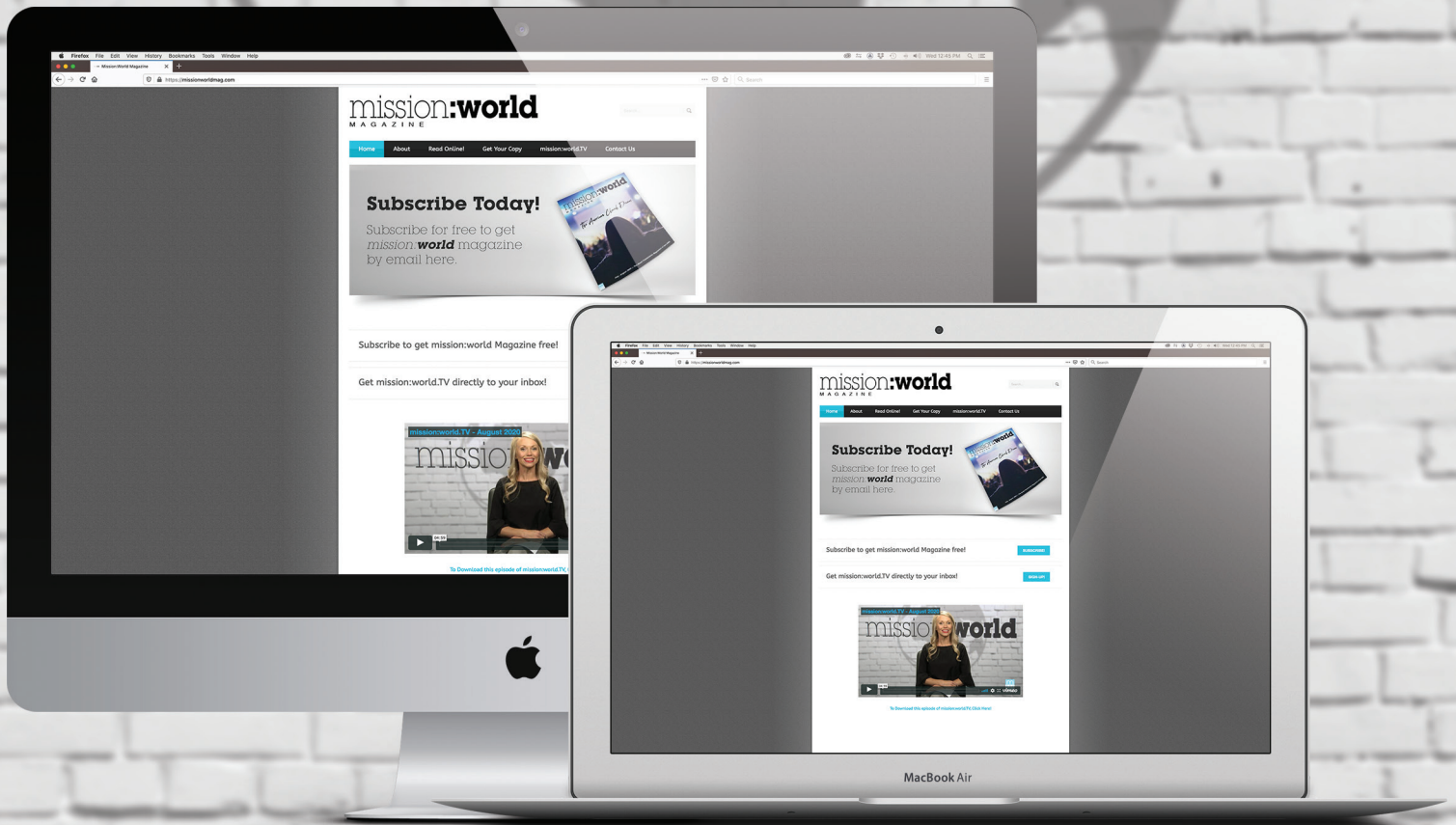


**CHANGEMAKERS**  
PHILIPPINES

September - October 2021 ::: The Great Commission Magazine of the BMA



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## mission:world

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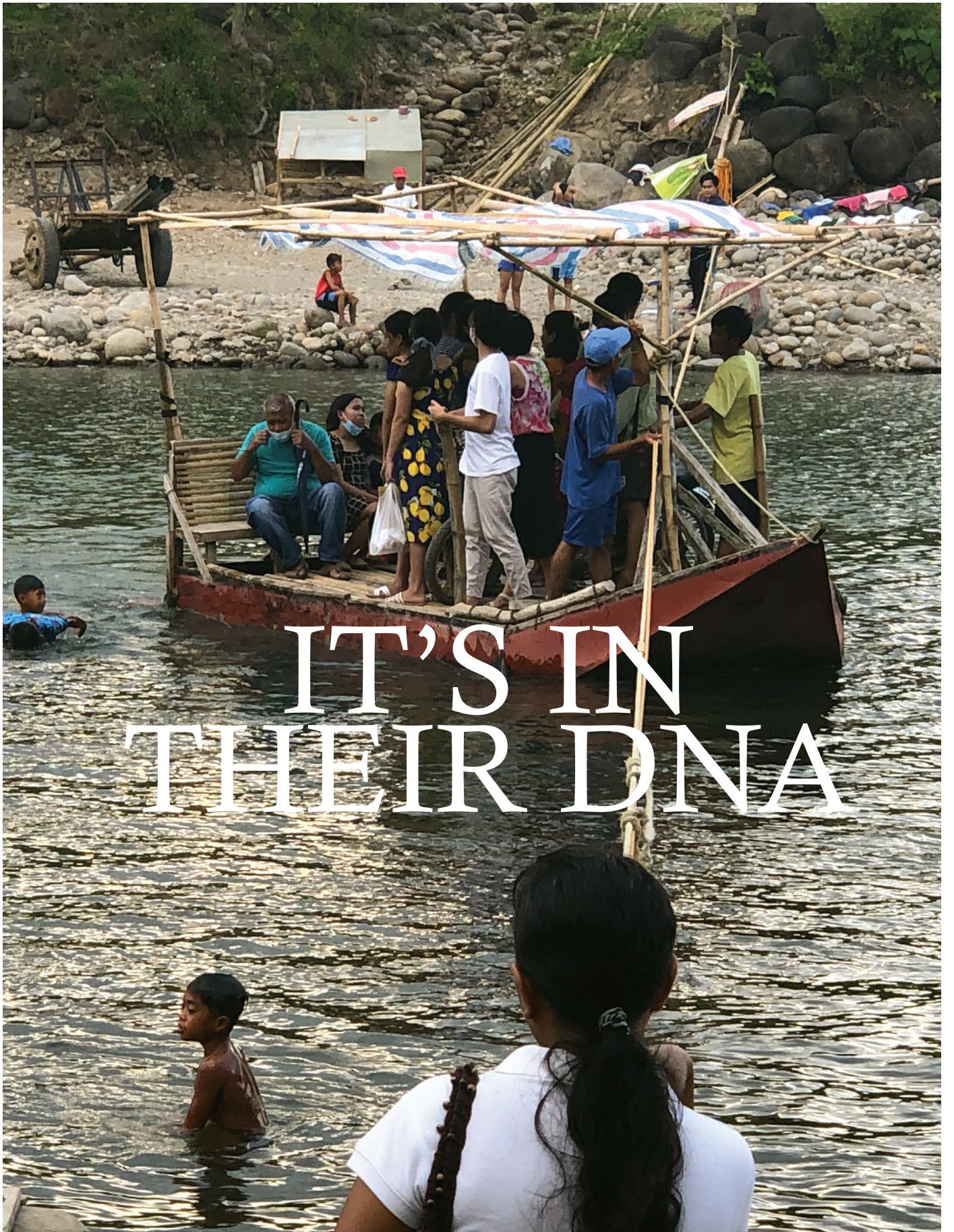
**BMA Missions** seeks to facilitate churches in fulfilling the Great Commission through assessment, training, coaching, and missionary care.



**Lifeword** assists in taking the gospel throughout the world through radio, television, the internet, and mobile devices.



**Ministers Resource Services** helps meet the financial planning needs of BMA pastors and staffs.



IT'S IN  
THEIR DNA

BY: Stan Scroggins  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org

**P**ioneer Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) missionaries first came to the Philippines in the early 1970s. Back then living in this third world country was rough. Those early missionaries didn't have the benefit of today's modern missiological theory, pre-field preparation, or seminary training; yet their early work continues to have influence today. They were church planters. But they also planted missions into the very DNA of churches in the Philippines. There is hardly a church to be found in the Philippines that doesn't have a mission and a missionary. It is just in their DNA.

**Missions in the Philippines is a BMA America success story.**

Today there are mature ministries which lend to successful missions in the country. The BMA Philippines Bible College has trained pastors, missionaries, and church workers for over 45 years, with over 90 percent of all pastors and missionaries graduating from the college. Lifeword Philippines floods the airwaves nationally, regionally, and locally through low frequency broadcasts. These small stations help promote local mission and church efforts to reach a population still with little access to technology other than radio. BMA Philippines Publications provides Bible teaching materials to churches across the nation. The BMA of the Philippines is the national organization pledged to send missionaries. Its Missions committee, in co-operation with BMA America's Mission Department, currently supports twelve **Changemaker** missionaries throughout the country as well as in one foreign field.



BMA Missionaries to the Philippines, Doyle Moore and family

Our current American missionaries in the Philippines carry on the biblical mandate of church planting. You might say church planting is in their DNA too. While they all have supporting ministries as vital parts of their work, they all prioritize church planting. Doug and Diane Lee along with Stan and Donna Scroggins focus on training students and working with graduated missionary church planters and pastors: Cris and Alicia Samson will use medical missions to promote their church planting efforts once they return to the country; Fil and Lisa Kakilala, reaching out through youth culture, church plant on the island of Panay; Danny and Rita Ballard use cancer recovery as outreach while training urban church planters on the island of Luzon. Sam and Dawn Freeman continue their work with the BMA Philippines Publication Department while training missionary church planters with the Missions Department of the BMA Philippines from their base on the island of Negros. Even pioneer missionary Don Newsom continued to focus on church planting until his death.



Stan and Donna Scroggins

Filipino people are unique in the world. Over one third of Filipinos live outside of their country. They easily learn and speak other languages; they assimilate easily into other cultures; and they even look like most of the largest unreached people group in the world. What is the future of the Philippines mission story? God has gifted Filipinos specifically to reach Asia.

With over 7,000 islands making up the nation, whole populations of people are “white unto harvest,” still having not heard the gospel. Harvesting these people are a new crop of missionaries and church planters. The following articles introduce you to just a few of the many missionaries and pastors in the Philippines. They are a varied group, coming from a variety of islands, speaking several different dialects, called to cities with millions of people and villages with less than a hundred. All are engaging in what is the only thing they know to do, missions. It’s in their DNA.

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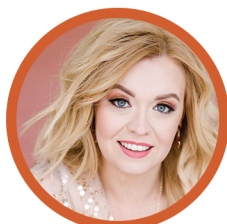
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Show

# GRATEFUL FOR HUGS AND HANDSHAKES



BY: Alan Quiamco  
BMA Missions  
[bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org)



**W**e have a view overlooking Dumaguete City, about five and a half miles east of us. We are also able to see the neighboring islands of Cebu, Bohol, and Siquijor. Directly to our west stands Mount Talinis, about 1,903 meters above sea level. Mount Talinis is the tallest peak in the mountain range known as the Cuernos de Negros. For our new mission we adopted the name Fairview Baptist Mission. Fairview Baptist Mission is one of the mission churches of Refuge Baptist Church with Pastor John Rey Vallejera.

Last year, we started a new mission in Tubigon, Bohol. This island can only be reached by boat or plane. Brother Maximino Quiachon is the missionary. We also started evangelism and Bible studies in Zamboanguita, about 27 miles from us, with Brother Kendall Maurin as missionary. Brother Kendall is a graduate of the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Bible College. This is a joint missionary program adopted by BMA Philippines and BMA America, with me serving as mentor.

Even during this pandemic with its lockdowns and restrictive protocols, Fairview Baptist Church thrives. We have no social gatherings or in-person church services but have found this to be to our advantage. After two or three weeks without church services, when we can meet again, we all notice that our handshakes and hugs are warmer. We feel genuine love for one another. I hope and pray this will continue even after this pandemic.

We are grateful for the associational model of doing missions. Some find fault and criticize us saying we have surrendered our church authority to a local association; but this is far from the truth. The BMA churches of America play an

important role in joining with our local associations to plant churches here in the Philippines. It is that very partnership which brought me to Christ. An American BMA missionary, Brother Melvin Meade, came to my hometown of Dumaguete City and organized a church. I was saved and scripturally baptized by that church as a youth. Later I pastored that church. I was schooled and trained at the BMA Bible College. Now I've pastored BMA churches in the Philippines for more than thirty years.

Fairview Baptist Mission has been established for more than three years now, supported by the associational model. I am thankful to serve as one of your changemaker missionaries. We thank you for prayers and your continuing support.



Missionary Intern Kendall Maurin



# STAYING OPEN IN DAVAO



BY: Jeynor Aristoteles  
 BMA Missions  
 bmamissions.org

**H**ello! My name is Jeynor Alqueza Aristoteles. I am the pastor of the Bread of Life Baptist Mission. I'm 28 years old and have been a Christian for almost 17 years. I proudly finished my Theology degree at the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Bible College in 2016.

I began serving in ministry right after I graduated and have been sustained by God's grace every day. I prayed for some time about starting a mission work for the Lord somewhere. One of the places on my heart was Bukidnon which is far away from where I live right now. However, when I received a message from Sam Freeman about applying as a missionary to Davao, I knew it was God answering my prayer about where to begin my mission work. After a week of prayer, I accepted the call without hesitation. I finally began the mission work in December 2019. I thank God for His continued goodness even during the global pandemic. God is doing amazing things to keep this ministry going and thriving. I am grateful to God for providing support through BMA America and BMA Philippines.

Aside from starting my mission work, I was able to save money for my wedding. I am convinced that everything happened according to God's timetable. When doing mission work, it's really necessary to have a wife as your partner. It can be hard to be a single person when engaged in mission work since the lust of the flesh can be strong and one may fall into temptation. Since I didn't want this to happen to me, I decided to get married. My lovely wife has been working with me in the ministry ever since.

I am grateful to God that my parents and four siblings fully support my mission work. By God's grace, His work through me and my family has grown even more. It is my privilege to share how God has been so amazing in the ministry that He has called me to do.

The ministry in Davao City, Philippines is growing stronger in the Lord. When I began, I asked the Lord to give me people to minister to. I tried several places in Davao City, and God eventually directed me to a specific people and area where I started. I never thought about giving up because I believed that God was at work in me. Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." This verse has strengthened me and helped me to keep on trusting God. To my surprise, God placed me in the path of a Baptist pastor in Davao City who was able to help me find areas of ministry in Davao City.

Unfortunately, when Covid-19 hit the country, I was unable to go to Davao from Gensan. However, in only two and a half months, BMA Philippines sent some financial support for the people to buy goods. I used this opportunity to be able to go back to Davao and to pass through the boundaries. I travelled 150 kilometers from Gensan City to Davao City on my motorcycle. Since I did not have a place to stay, a Christian family invited me to stay at their boarding house. I also had help in the mission work from other men who graduated from the Baptist Bible College in Davao. I never anticipated that I would have help here in missions. I believe that God prepared this for me ahead of time.

Every Sunday we have a worship service at the boarding house. This is possible because the owner of the boarding house opened up the house for services. He approached us first and asked if it would be permissible to have worship services so others could join. Even though things have become more challenging recently, God's mercy and grace have enabled us to continue with our Sunday worship services. The believers have agreed to collect tithes and offerings as well.



The Lord has also allowed us to conduct cottage prayer meetings to share the gospel with more members of each family. This has become yet another ministry in Davao. Little by little, the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ has been enriching their lives.

As I continue ministering in Davao, I have a burden in my heart for this large city as there are many people who need to be reached with the gospel. We pray that the ministries here will continue to develop and expand so that Jesus will be made known in the lives of the people here as the only Savior who died for their sins. I hope that by teaching them, they will eventually come to understand how to live by faith in Jesus Christ.

Even though some churches have shut their doors, we have not stopped our regular Sunday worship services. Thankfully, we have not received any pushback from the local government. We are grateful that we can continue to pray and worship the Lord despite the lockdowns.

After eight months, Bread of Life Baptist Mission had its first baptism service. Nine individuals had trusted Christ as their Savior and followed the Lord in baptism. Our theme for 2021 is “Walking with Jesus Daily.” My desire as a pastor is that our

members will come to understand sound doctrine and will learn to walk with Christ daily, serving Him with humility and obedience. What a praise to see these nine individuals grow in their faith and take the first step of obedience by submitting to baptism!

We continue to see spiritual growth in our church members. Many of our members are bringing others to Christ and inviting them to church. As our church grew in number, we found ourselves crowded during Sunday services. Due to the lockdowns, police roam the streets each Sunday looking to enforce the restrictions. If caught, we would be stopped from holding worship services. We started praying for a larger building where we could meet with less risk of being caught. God answered in His perfect timing, providing a larger building for us where we could worship without fear of discovery.

Another blessing we have seen is the beginning of a fellow pastor’s ministry. Brother Millard was one of the Bible school graduates who helped me start our ministry. He had committed to do his own mission work for five years but had to stop because of a lack of financial support. He was able to affiliate with BMA Philippines. This made it possible for him to become a member of True Vine Baptist Church

which formally sent him out as a missionary to Agusan Del Sur to start a mission with the tribes there.

My deepest prayer for the members of Bread of Life is that we will always be on guard spiritually. We know that as Christians, we are at war; our enemy Satan is always seeking to deceive us. I pray that our members will learn to love God's Word more and more and will put on the whole armor of God. I want our members to be discipled and to learn to disciple others. I encourage our congregation to be involved with missions and to support missionaries. I want our church members to learn to evangelize. The population of Davao City as of 2021 is estimated to be at around 1.8 million. This is the second largest city in the Philippines. If I am the only one sharing the gospel, progress will be too slow and too many souls will enter eternity without Christ. My prayer is that our church will continue to grow and will join me in sharing the gospel so that many souls can come to know Christ as their Savior.



Jeynor Aristoteles





BY: Enrico Pillazar  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org

## Reading and Writing in Rizal

I am Pastor Enrico G. Pillazar from Balayan, Batangas, Philippines. I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior in 1984 and was later baptized on June 7, 1985. Several days after I was baptized, on June 17, 1985, our senior pastor took me to Quezon City to study at a Bible institute. In 1987, after I graduated from the Bible institute, I began to serve the Lord in a mission to the Mangyans in the mountains of Calavite, Occidental Mindoro. In addition to the missions in Batangas and Mindoro, I was also able to help with missions in several other areas of the Philippines. In 1999, by God's grace I married my wife, Elizabeth. The Lord has blessed us with two children, Shekinah Faith and Adams Matthew.

After serving in missions in many different provinces of the Philippines, my family and I are currently serving at Baptist Missionary Mission Southville Montalban in Rodriguez, Rizal. As of July 30, 2021, we will have been serving here for one year.

Currently, we have three Bible studies in different areas, two children's evangelism ministries, and a new children's ministry in the next village where three of our youths who live there teach the children. In our youth department, we encourage them to get engaged in various roles like leading in prayer, being a scripture reader, serving as a song leader or guitarist, or teaching children's Sunday school. In our children's ministry, in addition to teaching them Bible stories and verses, my wife teaches the children how to read and write. I thank the Lord that even through a pandemic we have been able to hold regular Sunday services and prayer meetings, except during quarantines where we were prohibited from meeting in person.

Ministry has been challenging for us since arriving here. Just as with any new location, we must determine the best way to share the gospel. The people in this area have many different beliefs and thoughts about God and how to get to heaven. By God's grace, we pray and trust in His leading as we obey and share the gospel as best as we can. Pray for the believers who follow and serve our Lord Jesus Christ that they will grow as they are disciplined, that they will be able to plant new churches, and that they will be able to conduct Bible studies in the areas where they work. Pray for the gospel to be shared to all those around us.

I thank the Lord and the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America for this wonderful opportunity to share the ministry we have been blessed with here in the Philippines. I hope that all of us will be able to reach more people and plant more churches all over the world so that the gospel is heard by all.



BY: Flordeliza A Dequino  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org





# SERVING THE ATI PEOPLE GROUP

**I**t all started with a dream.

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;” (1 Timothy 1:12).

Greetings from the Ati tribe of the southern part of Negros Island, Philippines!

“A spirit with a vision is a dream with a mission.” I am the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sammie Dequino. My mother died when I was eleven years old. I have two siblings. My brother is a preacher, and my sister was a mother of two until she died five years ago. I became the guardian of my sister’s two daughters after she died.

I am part of the fruit from the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) ministry here in the Philippines led by Pastor Doyle Moore and his wife Linda. I received a full scholarship to the BMA Bible College here in the Philippines. After I graduated, I served in the church and worked as a teacher for six years in one of our Baptist academies here in the Philippines. I then spent three years as a missionary to Cambodia, and nine years working with the Ati tribe in the southern part of Negros Island in the Philippines.

In 2012, a couple from BMA America challenged me and brought me to the Ati tribe to help serve in a recently formed ministry there. I was able to help the local pastor and his family. This was intended to be a training opportunity for me to help prepare me for international missions; however, God has kept me here in the Philippines for now. I am so grateful to the Lord for using the BMA to come alongside me and to support me in my missionary journey for the past twelve years.

I want to express a special thank you for all the prayers and support during these challenging times. It was my privilege to be able to finish my secular degree while serving full time as a missionary. Upon graduation, I received a high-paying government job offer as a teacher but decided to remain a missionary. Working with this tribe as a single missionary has truly been an inspiration. God has never once failed to provide for my needs.



## Conversions During the Pandemic

Due to lockdowns and travel restrictions, the Ati tribe has been unable to go anywhere. However, the village chief allowed us to continue our home visitations, prayer, and evangelism ministries. We were able to minister to 180 homes in the Ati tribal community. Two hundred adults and more than one hundred children trusted and received Christ as their Lord and Savior. All glory be to God.

## Facing Pandemic Uncertainties Together

Many of the church members have struggled to afford food during the COVID-19 pandemic. The entire Ati tribe community is thankful to BMA America and BMA Philippines for providing for their needs during these challenging times. This pandemic has brought untold suffering worldwide to thousands of Filipinos who have lost loved ones, health, and livelihoods.

The Ati tribe community has pulled together to face these uncertain times with the blessed hope of the gospel. These trying times have brought out the best of humanity as our people have been willing to help each other with kindness, care, and compassion.

Through it all, God has used His church to be a source of hope and healing to the world.



## God's Plan for the Ati Tribe

We currently have six students studying at the BMA Bible College. I am working one-on-one with one of the students who is preaching every Sunday. They have committed to minister to their own people groups wherever God leads them when they finish their studies.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

We thank God for our six Bible college students who have committed to study and have a willing heart to be used by God for ministry. To God be all the glory! God is so good to give us Bible college students as some of the fruits of this ministry. We also have a children's choir and Sunday school. Many of our baptized church members are also fruits from this ministry. Praise God!





### Feeding the Children of the Ati Tribe

We have had an incredible opportunity to feed more than 200 Ati children over the past nine years. We have also been able to hold a VBS every summer. This past December, I led an effort called “First Time to Wear or Taste.” We provided each child with a pair of slippers and other clothing. The children were also able to taste delicious foods including spaghetti, ice cream, fried chicken, pizza, biscuits, and fruits like grapes and apples.

### God’s Provision for the Ati Tribe

The Local Government Unit (LGU) and the Non-Government Organization (NGO) have been a blessing to our ministry. We reached 38 unsaved families in the community. We shared with them the blessed hope we have in Christ to help them face the pandemic. Through a livelihood program, we taught them modern farming techniques. We monitored their health status and gave them a package of seeds so they could grow food to meet their daily needs. It is all by God’s grace that our ministry has been able to continue despite all the challenges we faced. It has required commitment and consistency even on the tiring days.

### A Dream Come True

The world is full of uncertainties but on Philippine Independence, June 12, 2021, God blessed us with the ability to begin a new church building. The floor of the building measured 24 by 44 feet. Contributions were made from the mission members, from its mother church members, the BMA brethren, and from our ministry partners to cover building supplies. Each worker was voluntary, and each had to do their own assigned task.

The children even played an active role in the project. The project is not complete yet, but I believe by God’s grace and provision all things will work out well. God will continue to provide all we need in His time. All the glory and honor to God!



BY: Joel Francisco  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org



# 4 GOALS FOR A TRIBAL MINISTRY

I am Pastor Joel Francisco. I am 37 years old and belong to the Ata tribe here in Negros Occidental. I received Christ as my Savior on November 10, 2000, through the influence of His servant Pastor Rudy Rioja. For two years, I studied religious education at the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Bible College in the Philippines and graduated with my degree in theology in March of 2004. Since then, I have been working with the Ati tribes in Isabela. I am happily married to Diesserey Francisco. We have been blessed with three energetic and lovely children—Jhoedyll, 17 years old; Jhared, 12 years old; and Joel Junior, our six-year-old. My wife and children have supported me in serving the Lord and working in ministry. We have been with the Ati tribes for twelve years, training them in God's Word and sending some to Bible college. I am grateful that God has used me to help spread the gospel to these people and has allowed me to see them grow spiritually.

John 9:5 encourages me: "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." These words encourage me to continue serving the Lord. I believe my purpose is to share the light of Christ with my fellow Ata tribe members. I have started working on three new ministries with the Ata people here in Negros Occidental. One is with the Ata community in Purok Manara located in the barangay of Celestino Villacin, Cadiz City. This community has 120 families or around 500 people. Another ministry is with an Ata community at the barangay of Puey, Sagay. This community has 48 families or around 260 people. The last ministry is with the Ata community at Sitio Las Piñas in the barangay of Minapasuk, Calatrava. This community has 40 families or around 220 people. I am thrilled to be able to serve the Lord by sharing His Word with these communities for the past three years. Though we see many hardships, we also experience the Lord with us through each part of our ministry journey. One of the hardship my family and I face is simply arriving at our destination on time. Both the distance between places and the uncertainty of the weather affects our arrival. However, the Lord has never failed to amaze me with the blessings He sends our way to help us continue working for His glory.





The first ministry I oversee is with the Manera tribe. They are located 18 kilometers away from the main road, and it takes me five hours of walking just to arrive there. The modes of transportation to get to the Manera tribe include trucks, motorcycles, or riding a horse... but if none of these are available, you must use your feet to arrive at your destination. In this community, we already have a church building with 50 baptized church members. The church offers different programs to the Ata community including children's ministry, a feeding program for children, home Bible studies, sports evangelism, prayer meetings, Sunday school, and Sunday services. Of the around 500 people in this community, 250 have already accepted Christ as their Savior. They are products of the different activities and ministries offered by the church to the community. As a member of the Ata tribe, it is my great desire that my own people will know Jesus and that all of them will receive Him as their Lord and Savior.

The second ministry I oversee is with the Ata community in the barangah of Puey, Sagay City, Negros Occidental. Of the 260 people in this location, twenty of them regularly attend Bible study and have accepted Christ as their Savior. We hold various activities in this location as well—Bible studies, daily VBS, gift-giving programs, feeding programs, and community service. We are praying that a church will be built in this community so that we can have a place to hold our Sunday services. This community is located between Manara and Minapasok. Visitors are easy to reach because they are located close to the main road. This place would work well for a fellowship program with all three tribes because of its location. I also hope that this place can serve as a rest area for traveling pastors and missionaries headed further distances in the mountain.

Our final ministry is located with the Ata community at Sitio Las Piñas in the barangay of Minapasok, Calatrava. This community has forty households. Six families attend Bible studies with us; and we have seen twelve souls come to accept Christ as their Savior. This community is located the furthest from us; as a result, they receive the least amount of my time. I am training a church leader, Pastor Reneboy Francisco, to help me with the ministry in this community. Under my supervision, Pastor Reneboy conducts Bible studies and other ministerial work when I am unable to be present. We are praying that a church will soon be built in this community and that all the tribe members will come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior.

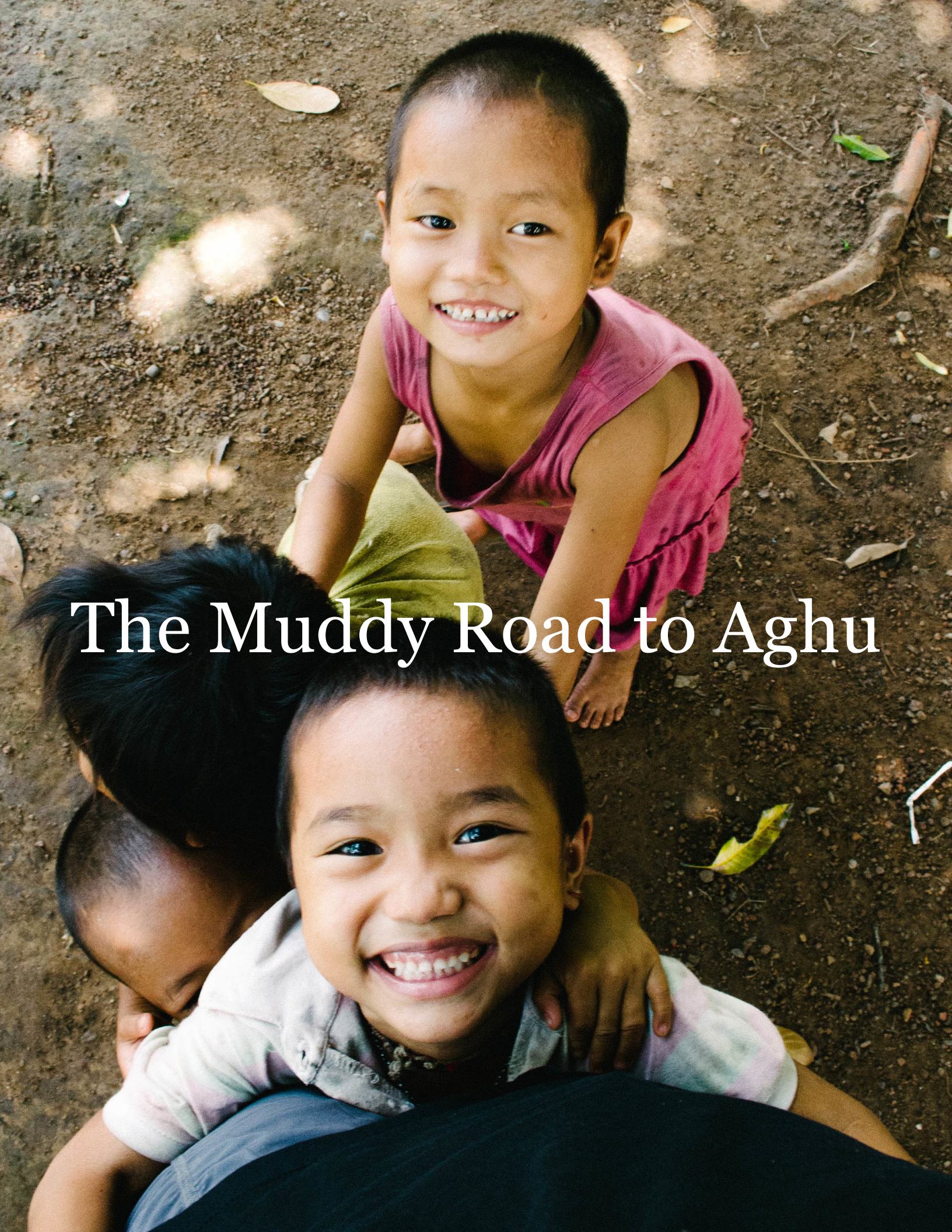
I am very grateful to BMA America, BMA Philippines, and the BMA Bible College for their support, prayers, and guidance. I am also thankful to my home church, Tribal Missionary Baptist Church, for their support. Most importantly, I want to thank God for His working in my life and in the life of my family, and for allow us to be a part of His ministry.



**The objectives of our ministries to the Ata tribes here in Negros Occidental are the following:**

1. To train more Ata leaders to help in the ministry;
2. To build a church in each tribal community;
3. To reach other tribes in Negros Occidental and Oriental;
4. To bring many souls to Christ.





# The Muddy Road to Aghu



BY: Kevin Berayo  
 BMA Missions  
 bmamissions.org

**M**inistry stems from an overflowing relationship with Jesus. It is about giving of ourselves and our time, talents, and resources to bless and help others as a missionary. It is seen as a service to God.

My name is Pastor Kevin E. Berayo. I am 26 years old. I live in the village of Dos Hermanas in the City of Talisay, Negros Occidental. I accepted Christ as my Savior through the mission and then committed my life to the Lord as a full-time missionary. Now I am pastoring at Aghu Baptist Mission, a ministry of Dos Hermanas Baptist Church.

I started this mission when one of the people in Aghu, a remote area located in the village of Dos Hermanas invited my senior pastor to start a ministry in their place. My pastor and I visited Aghu in December of 2016. During that trip, God gave me a vision to minister to the people of Aghu. At first, I started working in Aghu as a teacher. Through God's grace, I built a strong relationship with the children and youth I taught. Through these relationships, I was able to share the gospel with these young minds.

In Aghu, God provided someone with a very generous heart by the name of Manong Doming. He and his family allowed me to use their nipa hut to start a ministry in Aghu. The mission started to grow; now by the grace of God many people have been reached with the gospel.

A life of ministry is never an easy life. One of the challenges I face is traveling up this muddy road each time I go to Aghu. Still God never abandoned me. Instead, He inspires me more and strengthens me spiritually and emotionally. As time passes, I continue to see God's hand moving in the hearts of the people of Aghu. The ministry continues to grow and become more productive. We hold VBS, Bible studies, evangelism, and many baptisms as people surrender their lives to Christ.

Through the Aghu mission, God has transformed many lives. Many people in that place have come to know Christ. Loving God has become the center of their lives. Parents are now able to teach godly values to their children. Children are learning to value, love, and respect their parents. Many families have invited my senior pastor and I to hold Bible studies in their homes.

I can't predict what exactly will happen in my ministry. However, if God allows and so directs my path according to His will, I hope that the future of my ministry is to see many lives changed by the gospel.

My future goals in Aghu include starting a livelihood program for the farmers there that could help them earn a living to provide for their families. I also hope to teach the youth different values to help mold them into productive members of their community while also growing them in their knowledge of God and their relationship with Christ.

I owe a big part of the success of the Aghu mission and my ministry to Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) missionaries Brother Stan Scroggins and his wife Donna. I have no words to adequately express my gratitude for all the help they gave to me and my ministry. Their financial, spiritual, and emotional help continues to motivate me to share the gospel more and more. Both I and the members of Aghu mission have hearts full of happiness and gratefulness to the Scroggins for all they have done to help us.





# Children Without a Childhood

BY: Nestor Vibas  
BMA Missions  
[bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org)

**G**reetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ who continues to show us extraordinary favor. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America for giving us this opportunity to share our ministry with everyone, for visiting us through BMA teams, and for helping us during the 2020 lockdown. By the grace of God we were able to share some goods with the community in our mission field during the lockdown.

Baptist Missionary Church—Upper Pintor is located in Sitio Pintor, San Isidro, Rodriguez, Rizal, Philippines. Upper Pintor Church is a daughter church of Baptist Missionary Church—Pilot. The mission church was started in 2015 through a Bible study.

I am Nestor R. Vibas, Jr. I am 27 years old. I serve as a mission worker in Baptist Missionary Church—Upper Pintor under the supervision of Pastor Vincent Ferrer our senior pastor and association church planter. I visit the mission twice a week. I go to the mission Saturday early in the morning and I return home every Sunday after Sunday services are finished.

Upper Pintor is spread around the entrance to Rizal Provincial Sanitary Landfill. The people living here are squatter families, living in shanties made from whatever items they can salvage from the dump. They don't have electricity, water, or sanitation; and the only occupation in this place is scavenging.

Transportation is another problem we face in Upper Pintor. There are times that we need



to hitchhike rides on a garbage truck. It is very challenging for us. And because of the lack of transportation, it is very challenging for the children in Upper Pintor to go to school.

Because of these living conditions, nearly all the children in this place have no proper education and teenage pregnancy is very common. The average age for a girl to get pregnant here is somewhere around thirteen or fourteen years old. These young girls are unprepared for motherhood and rely upon their own mother when they become a mother.

Seeing these situations is heartbreaking; but we have hope that through God's grace they can receive a proper education. Hardly any child can enjoy their childhood. Starting at a young age, children babysit their younger brothers and sisters because their parents need to scavenge in the dumpsite. Other children help their parents collect junk materials. Because of this, these children can't go to school to study or play.

Our mission, by the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, is to share the love of God through His Word with the people of Upper Pintor. We strive to help them to dream big and to finish their studies. And we pray for them to be successful followers of God someday.

Every Saturday morning, we host a children and young teens fellowship. The children's fellowship is for children ages five through twelve. We begin with a greeting, followed by prayer, songs, games, a Bible story, activity, more songs, and a closing prayer. The

young teen's fellowship is for teenagers from thirteen to sixteen years old. This fellowship also begins with a greeting, followed by singing, Bible study, and a closing song. During the Bible study portion, we teach them Bible principles and we provide godly advice to help them to dream big.

Our Sunday services begin at 9:30 in the morning.

Our dream is to continue serving the Lord in this place and to share the gospel with everyone. We want the children in this place to be able to go to school and to be faithful followers of God.

Please pray for the people of Upper Pintor. Pray that they can be free from poverty; pray that they can go to school; and most of all pray for more souls to be saved in this place. God bless us all.





# A CHALLENGE TO COMMIT TO MISSIONS PHILIPPINES

**T**he Bible clearly commands us as Christians to do missions. Jesus said in Matthew 28:19-20, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” In response to Christ’s command, God impressed upon my heart the desire to commit to missions. I am currently working on a mission here in Leyte in Tigbawan, Maasin City.

Barangay Tigbawan is home to the mission work. It began as a children’s outreach program during the late 1990s. This work was continued through the years by different pastors. For several years Bible studies had been done in Tigbawan as pastors from neighbouring churches came to visit and help the

ministry. Those who benefited from the children’s outreach program were encouraged to join in the Bible studies with their whole family. This served as a way to bring people to God. From its inception in 1998 until 2018 no regular Sunday church services were held due to a lack of workers. This changed in January of 2019.

My name is Alfred Suico, Jr. I am a sinner saved by grace and called by the Lord to serve Him as a missionary here in Tigbawan. God used missionary Stan Scroggins to encourage me and to plant a vision and desire in my heart to do missions. I came here on January 4, 2019, and am currently serving as the missionary pastor of New Testament Tigbawan Baptist Mission.

When I first started the work here in 2019, I initially came to serve just for the first four months. However, God had other plans for me. His Spirit

worked quickly and efficiently on the people here, and I saw 19 people baptized that same year. God wasn't done yet though. He used our sister church, New Testament Baptist Church in Sullivan, Missouri, to provide for roofing renovations on our church building. God has blessed the people here in Tigbawan. We celebrated our first mission anniversary and held a thanksgiving celebration on December 22, 2019. What began as a short-term missions project has continued for the past two years for me.

We are still working to make progress on our church building, using the little that we have and relying on God's provision. In 2020, we saw God work in more lives. The initial 19 people who were baptized invited others to church and won more for Jesus. As a result, we now have many people who are interested in Christ attending our church. During 2021, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, God is still moving and making ways for the church to grow through our discipleship program. This program is geared toward candidates for baptism. Our building also continues to see improvements due to God's provision.

Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless the mission work, the people, and also the workers of God. This coming December 22, 2021, we will be celebrating our third mission anniversary. At the same time, we will hold our Thanksgiving

celebration. We are also hoping to finish putting tiles on our building. We covet your prayers for the mission work here in Tigbawan. I also want to personally extend my gratitude to Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Missions for their support and love, and for their partnership in the mission.

Acts 20:24 says, "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." Mission work is tough, especially for a young missionary (I am only 23 years old). But it is not impossible because we have a God who works the impossible.

I want to finish with a challenge to anyone who might be reading this. Let us go for God. Committing to missions is hard; Christ did not promise us a life free from troubles. However, in the middle of trials, He is there to help us through them. Will you be like the prophet Isaiah who responded to God's call? "Here I am, send me."

If you want to read more updates for the mission work here, you can add me on Facebook (Alfred Jay-R Suico) or like our Facebook page (New Testament Tigbawan Baptist Mission). Be our prayer partners in the ministry. To God be all the glory!



BY: Alfred Suico  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org



BY: Remy Bulohabo  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org

# THE HEARTBEAT OF JESUS

**H**ello everyone. Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I am Pastor Remy Bulohabo. My wife and I want to thank you so much for the opportunity to share with you all about our mission work in Estancia, a municipality north of Iloilo City on the island of Panay, Philippines.

We live in the last town of the province around 120 kilometers away from the city. Estancia is known as having one of the best fishing industries in the islands of the Philippines. We started a mission work in Estancia in May 2016. Since then, we have baptized 59 souls. The Lord has blessed this mission, and we have been able to reach thousands of children through our Bible Extension classes each Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

We teach children in about twelve different locations in different villages. Around 18 different church members help us to teach these children's classes. Some walk to the locations of these classes while others ride on tricycle-cabs from distant places to help us hold these classes. After the classes are finished, we all enjoy a delicious snack prepared by my wife.

We also have weekly activities such as Bible studies, prayer meeting, choir practice, door-to-door

visitation, children's Bible Extension classes, Sunday school, worship services, and youth fellowships. Our goal since we started this mission is to saturate the surrounding islands with the gospel. Many still have not heard the good news of Jesus Christ. Many children know nothing of the Bible. It is our great desire to reach these people while we still have time to tell them. Please pray with us for the souls of Estancia. We know that Jesus' return is very near.

Thank you to the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America for all your prayers and financial support. They truly are a great help and encouragement to us! Food and other items are very expensive here. We so appreciate your support. Thank you for your love and care. Thank you for being a part of helping us share the gospel with so many souls both on this island and the surrounding islands!

Please remember us in your prayers. Please pray that God will meet our needs. Pray that we will be strong and faithful in the work of our Redeemer,

ready for His return. Let us all continue the work of the Great Commission, the heartbeat of Jesus. Praise God for what He is doing here and around the world. God bless you all!



# BMA BIBLE COLLEGE AND TENTMAKER MISSIONARIES



BY: John Rey Vallejera  
BMA Missions  
[bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org)



**G**reetings from the Republic of the Philippines! My name is Pastor Jojo Vallejera. I am your Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) national missionary to Asia Pacific. For the past eighteen years my wife Radarlyn and I have been working in Hong Kong and China planting Refuge Baptist Church. We started in 2003 when the SARS outbreak was happening in Hong Kong.

In 2007, several of the pastors from BMA Philippines came to Hong Kong along with our former BMA missionaries Doyle and Linda Moore to help us organize the mission and church. In 2009, the Hong Kong government gave our ministry the legal accreditation of a charitable organization under the name “Baptist Missionary Association of the Philippines—Hong Kong Limited,” providing pastoral care, stress management counseling programs, temporary shelter, and educational and skills enhancement to Filipinos and Chinese working in Hong Kong. Refuge Baptist Church of Hong Kong became a sanctuary and “breeding ground” for overseas Filipino tentmakers and Chinese nationals who were the first fruits of our mission endeavor.

When we arrived back in the Philippines for furlough last January (2019), China closed all her borders due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We rejoice in God’s protection and how He arranged for us to return to the Philippines before the borders closed. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been able to be together with our sons, Darryl John and Rare John, who live with their grandparents and attend school in the Philippines while we minister in Hong Kong. Our young daughter Kaitlyn lives with us in Hong Kong; however, she too will stay with her grandparents and brothers to attend school when she is a bit older.

While stranded in the Philippines, we have used

our time to establish educational and training programs for both young people and adults through Alternative Learning educational programs. We have also been able to assist churches and help revitalize a struggling mission. In addition, we have been able to help with the Bible College leadership while our American missionaries have been stranded in the United States.

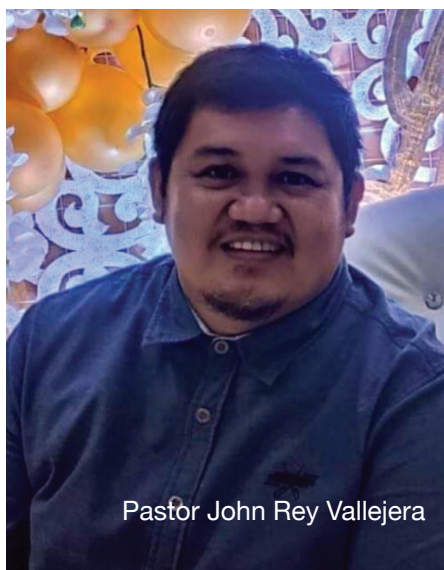
Last September, I was appointed as the Assistant Director of our BMA Bible College working alongside our BMA partners (the Lees, the Scroggins, and the Walkers). Last term, despite the pandemic restrictions, our students won 304 souls to the Lord. At present, we have thirty Bible students interning in our churches and missions preparing to serve God in their own fields as missionaries and church workers next year.

Please pray for us and our ministry. Our desire is to have a unified vision with our churches and leaders in our association to prepare future tentmakers, missionaries, and pastors. Our Bible college is playing a vital role in this area as nearly 90

percent of our pastors, national missionaries, and church workers are graduates of our college ministry.

We are aiming to send more tentmakers throughout Asia Pacific in partnership with our association in the coming years. This year we have completed our CHED (Commission on Higher Education) accreditation for our bachelor’s degrees in theology and religious education. This will help qualify our graduates to have credentials to teach abroad and will open doors for them to stay legally to begin missions in creative access areas.

May the Lord continue to use us in this shared ministry to assist, facilitate, and mobilize tentmakers in planting new missions in Asia Pacific. We sincerely thank our BMA America churches for your love, prayers, and support as we bring the gospel to our own people in the Philippines and all of Asia Pacific.



Pastor John Rey Vallejera



BY: Agapito Rapado  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org

## Developing **Filipino** Leaders

**G**od's Word changes what it touches. Sometimes it floods with conviction and sweeps us along to new places of revival. Often it quietly soaks down into the soul, enriching in secret, preparing the way for new seasons, new harvests.

It is a privilege to share my service in the ministry of our Lord. After ten years of familiar ministry in Negros, we are starting a new season of ministry here in Occidental Mindoro. My wife and I, along with our three children, replanted our family in Magsaysay, serving as missionaries with Word of Life. It is one of the municipalities here in Occidental Mindoro where most of the Mangyan people are located. The mission here has never been easy since the locality has very diverse religious beliefs and cultural barriers. And yet, by the grace of God, we are able to share the Word of God to hundreds of people here in the locality and have been able to conduct children's outreach each Saturday and Sunday. I am grateful for the provision of God despite the personal and ministry challenges present in the municipality.

The ministry here has been together through a season of study and seeking God, and we have nurtured a bond that has only grown deeper over the years. Members of the church were faithfully serving and speaking of their desire for gospel-centered God-glorifying lives. And I am always excited to serve God through pastoral ministry and Bible teaching. Our goal at the Faith Baptist Mission is to holistically impact and equip people with the Word of God. We are people who passionately desire to know, love, and glorify God, thereby displaying His incomparable beauty and infinite worth for the entire world to see. We want to be God centered, wholeheartedly making Him the foundation of all we do. We have sixty members in our church, and we are focused on developing a strong fellowship of believers. We are working on growing deeper through Bible study and discipleship, growing stronger through praise and worship; and expanding our ministry through evangelism and community outreach. We want to develop effective leaders through mentorship. Both the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of the Philippines and the BMA

of America have created a program where they support Filipino pastors financially, helping to expand the ministry opportunities we have. I am greatly impressed and grateful for this program that helps to support the pastor, his family, and the ministry.

However, we have faced a huge challenge that has partly affected the ministry. It has been more than a year since a quarantine has been declared here in the Philippines because of the pandemic that has affected most everyone both in our country and also around the globe. This pandemic prevented people from leaving their houses due to the regulations implemented to contain and prevent the spread of the virus. Our country still prohibits people from mass gatherings including worship services in the church. As much as our church members would love to go to church, some of them have not been able to attend church services. The attendance of Faith Baptist Mission here in Mindoro has been slowly recovering its usual attendance. We are very concerned about the health of each of the members here in Faith Baptist Mission. We have followed the government precautionary measures they have implemented. However, we still have members that are not able to go to church. We try to serve these member through online preaching on Facebook every Sunday. We must create a convenient way to instill and strengthen the faith of our members while also prioritizing their safety. Thus we decided to establish an online service. Whatever hindrances we are facing, Christians here are resilient enough with this pandemic to trust and have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. We are always grateful for the opportunity and blessing you have entrusted to us.



Pastor Agapito Rapado and family

Our church envisions and is continually praying to have its own land and building. We need your prayers for us to achieve this goal. As a pastor, I love the Lord and I love sharing all God has done and continues to do in my life. God has enabled me to go through leadership and ministry challenges and opportunities. Through it all, I have seen His hand in my life and the life of our church. I know the opportunities and the challenges before me are great, but thankfully so is the Lord I serve. Faith Baptist Mission is going to transform many lives in the community thanks to you and the Lord Jesus.





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