

Rick & Becky Martin

Your Missionaries in

Iloilo City, Philippines since 1976

Dear Friends,

One of the most listened to programs on the radio station here is "Unshackled." Three times a day we play one of their stories. The dramas are done live every Saturday night in Chicago at the *Pacific Garden Rescue Mission*. The amazing stories are about people who come to know the Lord Jesus Christ. The three testimonies in this newsletter are about 3 people who came to know the Lord with unusual backgrounds or unusual circumstances.

1. THE GIRL THAT GOT SAVED TWO TIMES IN ONE DAY



Convert's Testimony

I am NONILYN, 17 years old from Brgy, Buenavista, Leon, Iloilo. I got saved in an unforgettable experience of my life. During the summer break, I and my family went to Camandag, Leon where a beautiful waterfall is located. Early in the morning my sister and I swam in the cold, rushing, water basin. As I jumped in, my left leg got cramps. I cannot swim. My sister ran to call for help and it so happened that a man jumped in immediately before help arrived. It was Pastor Alvin. I was unconscious and my mother kept pushing my chest as hard as she could, doing CPR. It could have been the last time I would see them, but God gave me another chance.

When I was revived, they told me what happened. They kept thanking Pastor Alvin because if it wasn't for him, probably I'd be gone now. As I was sitting there, in shock, Pastor Alvin talked to me about what happened. Then he told me about life after death. He said that God gave me the chance to live to hear the gospel and be saved. It was at that moment I feel I needed to be rescued from my sins. I

accepted Christ as my Savior and thanked Him for the second chance to live. Someday, death will come but I am forever rescued and safe in the arms of my loving God.

Nonilyn was saved from drowning because a pastor risked his life. She was saved from sin because Jesus gave his life for her. She was saved two times in one day.

Pastor Alvin Cabatea graduated from Iloilo Baptist College in 2021.

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2. THE ATHEIST WHO CHANGED HIS MIND AND HEART



Convert's Testimony

My name is Roldan. I never liked going to church because no one ever tried to explain things to me. Like why do people believe in this and that? Then they will just answer me that it is what the older people believe. We are already living in the 21st century and they still believe in those things. When going to mass, I just walk around looking for pretty girl with my friends. We never listened to the preaching, and we thought at least we are present in church. Because I was taught that going to church will lessen the sin you have.

After getting our modules for school it is our time to roam around and escape from home. That's the moment when I knew the real importance of church. Pastor was walking around and passing out tracts. We were sitting at the waiting shed waiting for a tri-cycle to arrive. Pastor Hertos asked for our time and miraculously, not a single tricycle arrived. He began asking us about ourselves: what if we appeared before God? Are our lives pleasant before Him? Do we praise and honor God in the way we live? Those were the questions that struck me. We just looked at each other and shook our heads shyly. Pastor said that a person likes to be supreme among their fellows and it is called pride. Through pride, God kicked Lucifer out of heaven along with the angels who sided with the rebellious angel.

While pastor was speaking, I played my phone unconsciously not knowing how to react. He said because of pride Eve ate the fruit because she wants to know what's wrong and right. But Jesus humbly left the throne to save mankind. Jesus lived a rough life to show us how to be humble. That afternoon I and my friends accepted Jesus to be our personal Savior. We prayed together led by Pastor, after that afternoon. We go to church not because of pretty girls but because we want to know more about God. We want to know the reason and the purpose of our life.

I also volunteered myself to join in telling Bible stories to the children. I also want them to know the real reason and understand the purpose of the things around them. But most especially, I also want to teach them how God had made me understand about His Son and the great love He had for all mankind.

(Pastor Pablito Hertos is a graduate of the Bible college of another IBC graduate, Pastor Dennis Dialing, whose church and school is located in Davao, Mindanao.)

3. THOSE WHO KNEW THIS CRIMINAL DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM WHEN HE SAID HE GOT SAVED

I would like to introduce myself. I am Jay R, 22 years old and I live in Brgy. Monica, Blumentritt, Iloilo City. I have 3 siblings, a brother and two sisters. My papa was a tri-cycle driver, and my mother works for other people doing laundry.

I quit school at the age of 13 because my papa's income is not sufficient to support my tuition. I could say that I'm not well educated but I can read and write somehow. After quitting school, my life never got any better. Day by day, month after month, year after year I know that my life is becoming worthless. Even my family hates me. I went home late at night under the influence of strong drink. I remember how many times I engaged in fights in the street. I have a scar in my back from a machete because I attempted to burn my neighbor's house.

For me, it was just my normal life and I have no chance to change. I will die being a drunkard and heavy smoker. I was imprisoned for a year because of shoplifting in a store. Everyone looks at me with hatred in their eyes and I cannot blame.

Then I met the Lord. I never thought God would give me a chance to be restored. There was a young lady who is inviting people for their Thanksgiving, her name was Annelyn. Someone warned her about me if ever she will pass by our house. But still she came to our house and I met her. She invited me to their Thanksgiving service. Since I don't have a job I said to her I might come on Sunday.

That Sunday I got up early and dressed up not telling my family where I'm going. I came early to the church by myself and Pastor Lino greeted me. He asked me who invited me to the Thanksgiving service. I told him that Annelyn came to our house and invited me. Pastor Lino talked to me about the Lord and the plan of salvation. As I was listening to him, my heart was softened. At that moment I realized that I am a sinner but God is merciful and will change my life if I will accept Christ as my Savior. We bowed together and led me to a prayer and I received Christ in my heart.

I came home as a new man, but it wasn't that easy to be transformed immediately. The people that knew me continued to mock me, even my family. After few weeks of constantly attending church, I noticed a little change in my behavior. I thanked God that it is not too late for anybody to change one's life even if it happens slowly. I'm asking for your prayers that God will give me courage to stand up for Him.



(Below is a church service of Brother Lino Capilitan who was trained in the Bible College of Billy Caalem who is a graduate of IBC.)



Isn't the Lord wonderful and merciful to change the lives of people and their eternal destination?!

God bless,

Rick and Becky Martin

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Dear Friends:

1. Radio ministry update

Gene Sharp and Andy Chafa were here with their families during the month of October. To make a long story short three new stations went on the air in General Santos City, Dumaguete City, and San Remigio, on the other side of our island. I will write more in our next newsletter about the radio ministry. Brother Sharp is planning another trip here, most likely in the first quarter of 2024. Please pray for Brother Chafa as he continues his deputation.

2. Pastors and Workers Conference

During the first week of October IBC held its 42nd Annual Pastors and Workers Conference. It was more like a missions conference. The speakers preached about missions and most of the music was about missions. There were a lot of Filipino foreign missionaries here as well.

There were 5 missionary groups represented by one of their leaders. These ministries have had an impact on world missions. These include Asian Baptist Clearinghouse represented by Paul Byars. This missionary agency serves the 260 Independent Baptist Filipino foreign missionaries serving around the world. They were recognized for 30 years of service.

Bearing Precious Seed was represented by Al Braley, the head of operations at BPS in Milford, Ohio. In another prayer letter we plan to share more about that ministry. Bearing Precious Seed was recognized for 50 years of printing Bibles, New Testaments, and other scripture portions in over 60 languages; distributed in 130 countries.

Baptist International Missions Inc. was represented by our field director, David Harris. Becky and I have been with BIMi since we became missionaries in 1976. BIMi has served missionaries in over 100 countries for 63 years.

Independent Baptist Media was represented by Gene Sharp who started IBM in 1999. This ministry has been used by God to start radio stations around the world.



Fundamental Baptist Missions International is a ministry of First Baptist Church in Hammond, Indiana, our sending church. Pastor John Wilkerson represented this missionary agency which has been helping missionaries for 29 years.

Second from the left is John Wilkerson of FBMI, receiving a plaque of recognition. Brother Sharp and Brother Chafa from Independent Baptist Missions are to the right.



Fourth from the right is Brother Braley.



David Harris receiving a plaque for the work of Baptist International Missions.



The church planters' workshop on Tuesday and Wednesday had 10 sessions with 5 speakers. Each session was about starting churches in other countries. Below is a session with pastors and older Bible College men students. Most of the speakers were the representatives from these missionary groups mentioned plus a Filipino pastor, Ramil Olalia, and a Filipino missionary to Qatar, Johnny Lee Narvaez. Pictured left are delegates listening to Pastor Olalia.

Night service with missions' theme. The flags represent 56 countries where there are Filipino foreign missionaries.

Below are some of the Filipino foreign missionaries who were there.



Other workshops included a Discipleship Workshop led by my friend, Scott Cowling from First Baptist Church, Bridgeport, Michigan.

The Radio workshop was the workshop with the most sessions from Monday to Wednesday. Pictured left is a session for pastors and station managers.



Pastor Wilkerson is really good at communicating with people through radio. He used our studio to do a live broadcast on his church's FM station in Hammond, Indiana. I got lost trying to figure out how Bro. Sharp and Bro. Wilkerson did that.

Most songs were about missions.



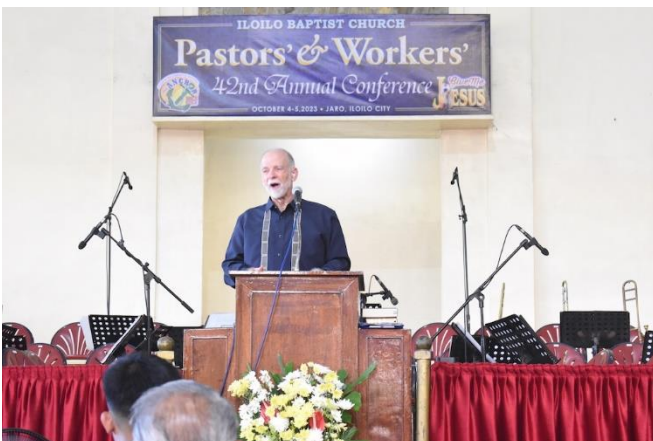
Below is one of the Bible College choirs singing. Music played an important part of the conference. A music workshop was held Monday to Wednesday for churches and Bible Colleges.



Another Bible College Choir. Over 900 Bible College students representing well over 30 schools attended the conference. About 10 of them brought their choirs and they were such a blessing.



Below is my friend, Paul Byars preaching. He is an American missionary. Brother Byars is an amazing Christian. He not only oversees the Asian Baptist Clearinghouse but pastors a church in Cavite near Manila. His church recently had over 700 people in attendance. He loves missions and has a passion to send out missionaries around the world. His physical vision is very limited, but his world vision is unlimited.





Johnny Lee Narvaez, a graduate of IBC, has a church in Qatar. The Lord is blessing him and his church in a Muslim country. He was on our staff at IBC for 28 years. His church mainly reaches overseas workers. He is very good in training men to start churches. During the 12 years he has been there, 16 of the men in his church have started churches in the Philippines, Africa, and the Middle East. Most of them have given up their well-paying jobs in Qatar, one of the wealthiest countries in the world.



One of the highlights for the ladies attending the conference was the ladies fellowship on Thursday afternoon. There was also a workshop for ladies emphasizing outreach ministries. On Thursday morning there were two split sessions for the ladies and men. Mrs. Jenny Harris, wife of David Harris, was one of the speakers and the other was Digna Toquero, wife of the late Pastor Gilbert Toquero. Brother Toquero was a beloved pastor before his home-going during Covid.



Becky gave a testimony to the ladies.

The Lord has been so good to help the pastors and workers get Bibles for many years from 3 sources. I have already mentioned Bearing Precious Seed.

Beams Bibles is in Gulfport, Mississippi, and has partnered with us for many years providing hardback Bibles for tens of thousands of people in this part of the country. Dr. Rene Freret was the president of Beams Bibles and now Dr. Aurthur Leonard is the president. The pastors and I could never thank them enough for the sacrifices they have made.

Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, pastored by Garvan Walls, Oliver Springs, Tennessee, has been sending containers of Bibles to the pastors and workers here for years as well. One thing I like about his Bibles is that they have lessons in the back of the Bible for new converts. It is very practical and effective.



Brother Braley, the head of operations there at Bearing Precious Seed was here for a whole week and we kept him busy distributing Bibles. Pictured right, he is in a jail giving out Bibles. I plan to share more about Bible distribution here in another newsletter.



3. Update on Becky

Becky has completed the initial two-year Gerson Therapy treatment but is continuing with it partially to stay healthy. She has been an inspiration to me as I have seen her passion to reach people with the gospel and in helping people who are needy.

Thank you for praying for her and the Lord's work in the Philippines. We are blessed to have so many people who help this ministry in several ways.

4. Home-going of Dr. Clarence Sexton

I met my friend Clarence Sexton in 1987 and liked him immediately. Through the years our paths have crossed from time to time, usually at conferences. He was a very gracious person.

The Lord gave him a gift in communicating with people when he preached. He was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he moved people when he preached.

He was passionate about the Lord's work and about pleasing his Savior. In 1989 and 1990 I visited his church twice. It was then that he shared his vision about starting Crown College. In the past 33 years the Lord used Crown College to send out Christian workers all over the world.

For 10 years Brother Sexton's messages have been heard by the people of Iloilo City from Monday to Friday by way of the radio station here. Many other stations in the Philippines also air his program, "Faith for the Family." It is only one way he impacted people around the world.

It is hard to believe he is gone, but he still lives.

God bless,

Rick & Becky Martin

