



THE BLUSTS

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Dear Pastor and Brethren,

September-October 2026 Prayer, Praise & Progress Report

“And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts” (Galatians 5:24).

Many rural locations in Bukidnon, people's homes, small produce gardens, chickens frequently being robbed. [People in starvation]. Some church people instead of attending church stay home so their stuff doesn't get stolen.

Malaybalay City mission church: Two people got saved. Perla's cousin's wife step mother Vicki (66) and her neighbor Rutchelyn (46) on Sunday June 28. Both former Baptist (GARBC). They said they never opened the Bible until they came to our church. In our last prayer letter, Vicki's daughter Honeybee (25) got saved in our church on Sunday June 21. Honeybee is continually inviting her Baptist (GARBC) husband to attend our church. However, he's afraid to attend because he doesn't want to offend his father who pastors a Baptist (GARBC) church. She said her husband, father-in-law and half the men in that Baptist (GARBC) church are drunkards who sometimes have brawls in church. Women members in that Baptist (GARBC) church are drama and gossip queens who sometimes have hair pulling fights. She said her father-in-law's (Baptist GARBC pastor) daughter (her sister-in-law) is a lesbian Baptist (GARBC) member. That Baptist (GARBC) church believe fornicators [live in partner], adulterers, homosexuals, lesbians, drunkard members professing Jesus go to heaven (1 Cor.6:9-10; Gal.5:19-21).

Morgan (55) New Zealand (non-denominational) attends our Sunday church meetings. He said that his wife and former church cursed him for being a “Bible fanatic.” And that he hates false Christianity. He moved to the Philippines for at least a year from (May 26 to May 27) and works for a Japanese company doing online teaching.

A few Catholic parents (unbelievers) have heard that our Bible preaching is very effective in correcting the unrighteous nature of children and teenagers corrupted by the public school education system. Therefore, they are very happy to send their children and teenagers to our Sunday church meetings for reformation. Not knowing that we are not here to reform them, but that the goodness of God leadeth them to repentance (Romans 2:2). These Catholic parents want their children to be righteous. True righteousness is only found in Jesus Christ.

Barangay Managok Malaybalay (forty minutes away): Weekly evangelistic Bible studies with fourteen Catholic visitors. They said they don't want to get saved if they turn out to be false Baptists like in the Baptist (GARBC) churches. Told them that anyone who doesn't repent and believe the gospel of Christ will automatically go to hell.

Municipality of Impasugong: One person saved. 1. Barangay Bontongon (mountains): Jovelyn (46) Baptist (GARBC) on Sunday June 28. She confessed that she's a thief. **2. Barangay Capitan Bayong Sitio Patulangan:** Perla's cousin Adelio (44) gave testimony that he's a former Catholic altar boy and lived a wicked life. He thought the Bible was only a man made book, but after hearing it preached, it tortured him and put the fear of God in him. Another of Perla's cousins, family of seven (Catholic) with four teens now attending our Sunday church meetings. **3. Barangay Impalutao:** Garlito (31) brought his two older sisters to attend church. Their father (65) is a Baptist (GARBC) pastor who told his adult children: a. “Disappointed his son rejected the sinner's prayer in childhood to repent from sin and believe the gospel of Christ.” b. “Bible is for the children of darkness not the children of light.” Garlito ask “why does God speak to his heart in our church, but not in his father's church?” I said in our church, there's Bible preaching (2 Tim.4:2; Heb.4:12). In his father's church, there's storytelling (2 Tim.4:3-4; 1 Cor.2:11).

Several former Baptist (GARBC) members in Impasugong & Malaybalay City are attending our Sunday church meetings after they heard our church has Bible preaching. They quit going to Baptist (GARBC) churches years ago because they're all dead and they don't like churches participating in basketball tournaments, disco dancing competitions and beauty pageants. The pastors announce that these events are called “faith based ministries” that give God the glory.

Municipality of Kitaotao (four hours away): Barangay Panganan: Ronie (52) Matigsalug tribal, former General Baptist deacon and former barangay officer who got saved two years ago in November is evangelizing the gospel of Christ to hundreds of people which resulted in four new outreaches in a nearby purok and three sitios (two hours round trip by walking). In July, two tribal groups were fighting that resulted in several deaths and a lockdown of no exit and no entry. Ronie's brother-in-law (an unbeliever) killed another tribal. The datu (tribal leaders) issued a verdict and settlement that the brother-in-law relatives and the wife's relatives must buy two horses or the brother-in-law's clan and his wife's clan will be killed. Many of Ronie's relatives are former General Baptists who got saved and were baptized into our membership. It's possible our church members might be killed even though they had no involvement in tribal warfare and are innocent in this matter. This is the law of the tribal.

Municipality of San Fernando (two hours away): Barangay Sacramento Valley: Elbert (44) a member and an overseas foreign worker returned home temporarily. He wants to go to Bible school, but needs sustainable income from an overseas job for him and his family to survive as San Fernando is only an agricultural farming community. His wife Annabelle (41) is a faithful member. Most church people relocated outside Bukidnon to find a job. **Barangay Magkalungay:** Emer (60) a chief tribal leader over 5,000 tribals is a faithful member. He watches over their nipa hut properties after they relocated outside Bukidnon to work on sugar plantations and live in shantytowns.

Taught our members about: I. Evangelists and evangelism. II. Why few churches are involved in evangelism?

I. Philip is the only person in the New Testament explicitly called an evangelist [appointed ministry was the daily ministration (Acts 6:1-7)]. He preached in Samaria, bringing the gospel of Christ to a people whom Jews traditionally despised. When the Samaritans believed and were baptized, Peter and John came to lay hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Philip's most famous evangelistic encounter was with the Ethiopian eunuch. An angel directed Philip to the desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza, where he found the eunuch reading Isaiah 53. Philip "...began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus" (Acts 8:35). When they came to water, the eunuch asked to be baptized (vs.36). Philip baptized him (vs.38), and "...the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip..." (vs.39). The eunuch "...went on his way rejoicing" (vs.39). In Ephesians 4:11, Paul lists evangelists alongside apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers as gifts that Christ gave to His local Baptist church. Evangelists preach repentance and the [good news] gospel of Christ wherever they go within their local and neighboring communities. They break new ground, reach unreached peoples [jails/prisons], awaken their local Baptist church to its evangelistic mission [local/foreign]. Church evangelism involves pastors (2 Timothy 4:5) and church members who are called by Jesus to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Evangelism is crucial because "...how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14). Evangelists preach the good news. Missionaries [Latin – "sent one"] start churches. Pastors shepherd churches. Different job, different purpose. ALL are to be evangelists at some level. NO Bible verses for evangelists being "sent out" by local Baptist churches to start churches aside from the apostles [Greek – "sent one"] starting churches.

II. Why few churches are involved in evangelism?

- 1. The Fear of Man** – afraid to share the gospel of Christ. Jesus warns that any professing disciple who is characterized by denying Christ—that is, one who is regularly folding in the face of potential conflict and failing to share the gospel of Christ due to the fear man—is in danger of being denied by Christ (Mt.10:33) at the final judgment and suffer a second death in the lake of fire (Rev.21:8).
- 2. Personal Busyness** – allow obligations and activities to crowd out biblical priorities, like sharing the gospel of Christ with others.
- 3. Worldliness** (Mt.13:22; Mk.4:19; James 4:4; 1 Jn.2:15-17).
- 4. Unfriendly / Unsociable** – allow their personality to become an excuse for why they don't engage unbelievers with the gospel of Christ. Family, relatives, neighbors, classmates, co-workers, friends, acquaintances are all people in our circle of influence whom we should engage with the gospel of Christ. Step out in faith, ask Christ for help, and, for the glory of God, overcome our tendency to keep to ourself.
- 5. Little to No Prayer Given to Evangelism** – if we don't give much time to praying for evangelistic opportunities and for divine aid in witnessing, then we probably won't find ourselves actually doing much evangelism. Paul confessed that he prayed earnestly for the salvation of his fellow Jews (Rom.10:1). He also asked others to pray that God would provide evangelistic opportunities (Col.4:3) and enable him to speak well in these encounters (Col.4:4). If we know the love of Christ, one of our first impulses should be to pray for others to be saved and experience the forgiveness of sins. The more we give ourself to deliberate prayer for unbelievers, the more likely we will be emboldened to share the good news with them.
- 6. Selfishness and a Lack of Love for Others** – one of the most painful realizations we might make in evangelism is that we don't really have a heart for the lost. We may have never considered ourself to be a selfish person, but as we ponder the goodness of Christ, the urgency of the gospel of Christ, and the spiritual condition of unbelievers, we may discover that we are far more enraptured by our own interests, projects, hobbies, and problems than we are about sharing the gospel of Christ with others.
- 7. Love of Comfort and Ease** – evangelism is neglected because we simply don't want to inconvenience ourselves, bear reproach from unbelievers, persevere through awkward conversations, and to even give up hobbies to make time for this great task of gospel proclamation. If we allow a love for comfort and ease to gain a foothold on our hearts, it will become nearly impossible to make evangelism any kind of priority. The Christian life is a life of Spirit-empowered, self-denial, gospel-motivated. Those who parade around with outward religion, but have no inward reality is characterized by "...lovers of their own selves..." (2 Tim.3:2) and "...lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God..." (2 Tim.3:4). The reality of our faith will be expressed by our willingness to set aside our immediate desires for comfort and ease for the sake of obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 8. Failure to Make Evangelism a Discipline** – Bible believers must exercise discipline in their lives if they are going to maintain a heart for God and produce the fruit of holy obedience.
- 9. Not Genuinely Saved** – if we have tasted of the goodness of Christ, we should feel compelled, at some level, to share that mercy with others (Ps.51:13). If we are bereft of desire to share the gospel of God's grace with perishing sinners, it is difficult to conclude that we have the Spirit of grace residing in us. If the thought of someone going from spiritual death to spiritual life, from eternal judgment to eternal joy, from slavery to sin to freedom in Christ doesn't provoke some excitement in us, then we have to wonder if we really experienced these things ourself.

We have intense heartfelt love for the Word of God and the beloved Baptist brethren who are faithful obedient servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. Much appreciation for the Lord's Baptist churches who are beacons of hope, standing in the gap, reaching lost souls with the gospel of Christ. May God bless your labour for souls in your ministry. Thanks for praying, sacrificing, and partnering with us. Your giving is making a life-changing impact in the Philippines.

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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