

## RICK & BECKY MARTIN

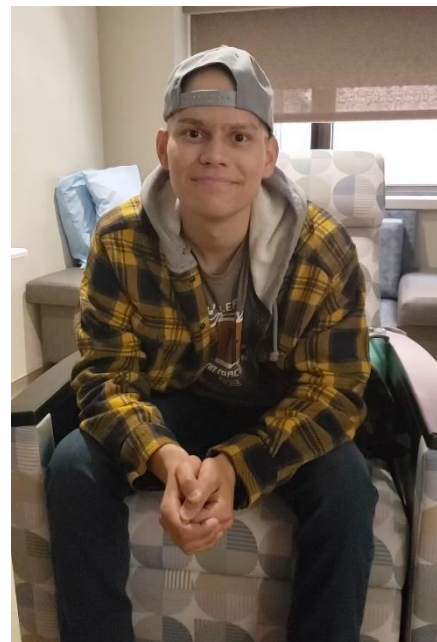
### *Missionaries in Iloilo City, Philippines since 1977*

*Iloilo Baptist Church/Iloilo Baptist College*

7/26/22

Dear Friends,

I wanted to write and tell you about the camp in the Philippines we named after Nate Noonan, the son of Pastor Don Noonan of the Rochester Baptist Church, Rochester, Minnesota. Nate is 17 years old, when he was 14, he was diagnosed with leukemia. He recently had a bone marrow transplant. His testimony and courage as a Christian have encouraged and inspired me and others who know him. He has four older sisters; one was the bone marrow donor. Here is Nate with one of his sisters on his birthday at Mayo.



Nate -- happy leaving one of the many times he has been in the hospital.

15 years ago we had a pastors kids camp in the mountains and it was one of the best camps we ever had, maybe ever. We usually have a PK camp after our youth conference in Iloilo City. The

city isn't the best place for a camp but it is convenient. Nate's situation and faith made me think a lot about the pastor's kids camp this year and inspired us to go all out and have the camp back in the mountains again. For one thing, it took place during the week of Nate's birthday. I was praying the Lord would use this camp to touch the hearts of these pastors' kids. My father was a pastor and I am so thankful to have been raised in a pastor's home. We have had a pastor's kids ministry for many years now. The past 14 years we have had over 160 pastor's kids graduate from Bible College with almost all of the men PKs going out to start a church after graduating.

I went to the camp at the end of May in the mountains where Pastor Billy Caalem has a high school. Pastor Caalem was in our 2nd graduating class in 1983. We used his school for the Pastor's kids camp. He also has a Bible College with about 185 students. There were 167 pastors' kids and 54 of them surrendered to go to Bible College. I only went the last day but it was probably the best day of camp I have ever experienced.

The night before I got there, Brother Caalem was preaching and a lot of snakes came into the church building during the service. In these mountains people call these snakes "Cliffhangers" because they

July- August 2022 (Part 1)

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hang from trees or rocks and fall on their prey which sometimes includes humans. They were about 7-8 feet long. Bro. Caalem was preaching and one of the snakes was hanging from the rafter right over him and the kids started shouting when they saw it. Everyone panicked and ran out of the church. The pastors killed 4 of them but all the others got away. I was there the night after that. It is so beautiful there. Except for the snakes.



Brother Riyannee, one of our staff, holding one of the dead snakes!

Snakes in the rafters:



It wasn't too hard to get up to the area near the camp. Billy Caalem's high school has 250 students and he is able to get many of them to go to his Bible College. In this picture you can see his school building which we used for the campers.



Below are the pastor's kids from our Bible College who went there. This is in the town of Leon. They are transferring their bags to another bus to go up the mountains. Some of the



pastor kids asked if they could bring their cell phones and the workers told them that would be ok. When they went there, they found out there was no cell coverage for their phones. Of course, the workers knew there was no coverage there and thought it was funny. It turned out to be a blessing because they could focus on the camp and how God was speaking to them during the camp. The spirit of the camp was electric. The campers were so excited, focused, and positive minded about the Lord working in their lives. It was a unique experience.



The food was good!



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Morning lineup and exercises:



Night service



This is Billy Caalem  
preaching right before the  
snakes came in.





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Here are the 4 snakes they killed. Then the church service resumed but most of the kids were looking out for snakes.



Invitation the night Pastor Billy Caalem preached:



This was on Wednesday night when I was there and I talked about my dad who was a pastor, and growing up in a Christian home like theirs.



The theme was "Be The One" which is the name of a song that some of you would know. They would sing it enthusiastically at the start of each service.

Invitation with kids responding.

Below are six of our staff members who all are children of staff members at IBC. In 2007 they went up to this camp as teenagers and now they are the ones who are leading the camp. They did a good job. I never dreamed back in 2007 that these teenagers would one day be leading the camp.







Group pictures of the campers. The pastors who were there are on the front row.

This is the bridge I had to cross to get to Pastor Caalem's property. The wood plank we walked on is 10 inches wide.



This is what it looks like from the little bridge. The bridge shakes when more than one person is on it and there were a couple of people near me when I was on it. It is quite a way down if you fall off the bridge.





It is summer so the river is almost dry. There are a lot of waterfalls in this river. This time of year you can walk up the river and see several waterfalls.



Safety comes first with the public jeeps the campers ride on. Haha!



Pictured below is where I stayed all night. One of Brother Billy's relatives owns it. It is in a village at the top of the mountain. The scenery from this place is amazing.







This is a picture from the place of Camandag where Bro. Billy is from and where we had the camp:

Below is Brother Billy Caalem with his daughter Genevieve who helps in his Bible College. She was a great student at IBC a few years ago. This is her husband, who drove me up to the mountains with Billy.



Brother Caalem stopped on the way up to camp to let me meet two of his graduates. Below on the left is Jorbe Calambro. He is blind and goes from village to village preaching. There are 84 villages in Leon and more than half have Independent Baptist churches, most of which are pastored by graduates of Pastor Caalem's Bible college.

The pastor on the right is Pastor Franky Capilitan and he is in a wheelchair. He too is a graduate from Brother Caalem's college. I think Billy said he was in the first graduating class in 1994. For many years he has walked a long distance in the mountains to get to one of the churches he pastors. A few months ago, the pastors around his area invited him to preach at a church. When he got there, they surprised and gave him a motorcycle. They sacrificed a lot to do that and Brother Franky was so happy and thankful. Not long after getting the motorcycle he was in an accident and broke both legs. When the pastors found out they felt sorry for him and again started raising money for him. This time for his medical needs.





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Please pray for the pastor's kids at the camp and the decisions they made and also for the many pastors in the mountains.

Please continue to pray for Nate. If you want to write and encourage him you can through Facebook at "Nathan Noonan's Team Page"

When Nate was doing better, he was able to speak to the members of Rochester Baptist Church.

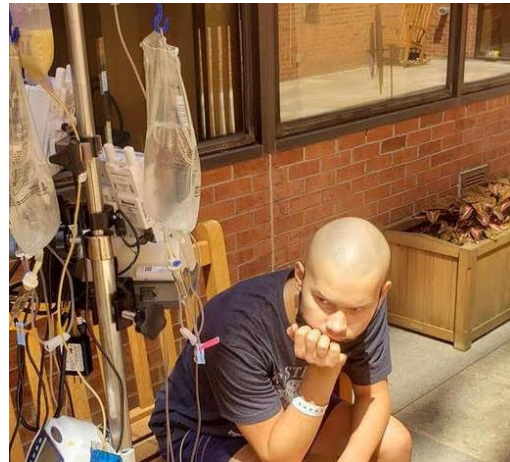


<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2269623906620870>

A lot to think about at 17 years old:

God bless,

Rick & Becky Martin



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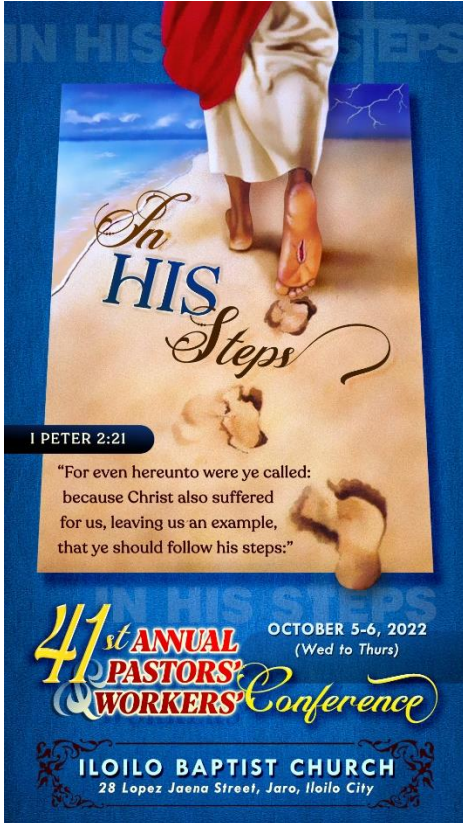
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## RICK & BECKY MARTIN

### *Missionaries in Iloilo City, Philippines since 1977* *Iloilo Baptist Church/Iloilo Baptist College*

8/10/2022



Please pray for:

1. The Pastors and Workers Conference in Oct. 3-7

The theme is "In His Steps"

Please pray God will use the preaching, fellowship and all that happens will challenge and encourage the delegates. We are expecting students from about thirty Bible Colleges. The Bible College students are the future of starting churches in this part of the country. It has been three years since we have been able to have Bible College students, wives of pastors and other Christian workers come, although in March pastors were able to come.

This year we are having workshops on Monday afternoon until Wednesday noon and then services Wednesday afternoon until Thursday nights. Then on Friday there will be an Alumni meeting.

The workshops include:

Church Planting  
Music  
Radio Ministry  
Discipleship  
Businessmen



2. Please pray for Pastor Reynald Linsayan

He graduated three years ago and recently his church and parsonage were burned down by the NPA's (Communist rebels) in Mindanao. You can see below they started the fire in daylight. Somebody took these photos not long after the fire started. Reynald was

a part of the NPA as a teenager and then a pastor led him to Christ and he quit the NPA and came to Bible college here and graduated two years ago. Please pray for his safety although Brother Reynald says he isn't afraid of them.





### 3. Students and staff at Iloilo Baptist College

Please pray for the students and staff of IBC. Below is a picture of them that one of the staff members sent me a few weeks ago. They are busy getting back into the outreach ministries that we were not able to do during the pandemic. All the Elementary and high schools here are still not having face to face learning yet so we are not yet able to go back into the Public schools.



### 4. Update on Becky

Thanks for your prayers for Becky. It has been 9 months since we discovered she had cancer. Her recent blood tests were encouraging. Please pray for the ministry she has back in the Philippines. She misses it.

Becky and I want to thank our family: Ricky and Brandie, Rachel and Matt along with our four wonderful grandchildren for opening up their homes to us while Becky is doing Gerson Therapy for her cancer. They have been such a blessing and encouragement to us. I am still going back and forth to the Philippines spending about a month in each place. We are so thankful for so many of you that are helping the Lord's work in the Philippines

God bless,

*Rick & Becky Martin*

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