

REPORT ON THE PHILIPPINE TRIP

PASTORS JIM & JASON



Background

Psalm 103:1-2 (NASB95)

“¹Bless the Lord, O my soul, And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name. ²Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits.”

First of all please accept our sincere thanks for allowing us to go to the Philippines on this mission; for supporting us financially and in prayer; and for the encouragement you have been to us. When we departed on December 6th we had several objectives in mind. They were:

1. To respond to Pastor Rolly’s request to teach Dasal Community Baptist Church the Statement of Faith of our Church; and to teach the them God’s plan for church leadership, specifically the role and function of elders.
2. To seek with Pastor Rolly the will of God in ordaining another elder to serve with him.
3. To meet with members of the Philippine office of the Center for Community Transformation, with the goal of pursuing various options that would enhance economic stability for the communities of Salincob and Dalumpinas.
4. To examine the donated property for the church

Teaching

We each taught 3 evening sessions on the topics noted above. The turnout for all 6 evenings was remarkable. The average attendance each night was about 40, with more attending on the Friday evenings. The sessions were interpreted through Pastor Rolly and interaction was well facilitated. We observed men and women with keen minds and enquiring minds as it came to the Scriptures.

In addition to the planned events, Jason also taught an additional class one Sunday morning on the congregation’s responsibility to its leaders. Jim was privileged to speak to a student assembly at Pastor Rolly’s school: Dalumpinas National High School. He enjoyed the liberty of the Spirit and the opportunity

building; develop a construction plan; and to announce to the people of Dasal our willingness to financially support them in this building project.

5. To meet with Jun Fabra, the director of New Tribes Mission of the Philippines, and discuss the specifics of a voluntary fellowship with an association of like-minded churches in the region.
6. To assist, at Pastor Rolly’s request, in two weddings.

We had other responsibilities and opportunities once we arrived in Dalumpinas which we will explain below. We would be remiss not to give sincere thanks to our Lord who enabled us to travel there and back without incident. From the point of view of our safety, our travel connections and our health, God was so gracious to us in every way. We are truly thankful. We would also be remiss to not offer our gratitude to Susana, Art (Airyn’s brother), Pastor Rolly and Marilyn and our key partner here in Canada: Airyn for the loving and kind hospitality, care and affection we received. We were truly blessed.



to present the Gospel clearly and plainly.

On the last evening we were in Dalumpinas, Pastor Rolly asked Jim to lead the church in Communion. This was their first participation in the Lord’s Supper and it was a momentous event. There were nearly 100 in attendance. After carefully explaining who should participate in communion, both through earlier teaching and again on that evening, it was amazing that over 60 took Communion that night! Truly our Lord is doing a great work among this community.

To God be the glory.

Leadership

It was our intention to carefully and prayerfully observe Brother Boyong during this visit with the view of approaching him about serving with Pastor Rolly as an elder. Brother Boyong is 58 and appeared to us to be a mature, godly man with a passion to study and teach God's Word. He currently teaches the Adult Sunday School class on the Lord's Day. All three of us (including Pastor Rolly) were convinced of his qualifications. When we approached him on the matter he reflected a humble reluctance but a sincere desire to serve our Saviour in this way. On the last Sunday that we were with them, Jason had the privilege of giving the charge to Brother Boyong and the congregation; and as fellow elders we had the joy of laying hands on him and ordaining him into the service of eldership.

There are about 4-5 other men in the congregation that show good potential in church leadership. We left the community with the understanding that Pastor

Rolly would engage in leadership training in the coming year for these men. We also challenged the men to prayerfully consider the opportunity that will be presented to them.

There are also several women in the congregation that have a sincere love and devotion to Christ. We encouraged the Elders to be looking for ministry opportunities for them that suit the needs of the Church and the gifts of these ladies.



Center for Community Transformation

We met with representatives from CCT in their Urdaneta office. We visited a local fellowship group; and we hosted these representatives at San Nicolas and Dalumpinas for an evening with the gracious help of Susana. CCT is essentially a Christian micro-financing ministry. They help small business advance through small loans and ongoing resources. A typical candidate would have already shown them some good habits and a good business plan. The candidate then joins a fellowship group where each week they conduct a Bible study and provide resources to encourage and help the small business owner. Many come to faith in Christ during this process. Although they are establishing some churches, many of these clients are funnelled back to the local church. We were very impressed with their vision and philosophy.

They also have other projects to help the various communities. They will do an assessment of the area and will make recommendations to Pastor Rolly when it's complete.

We are uncertain as to how much help this organization can be to Salincob/Dalumpinas communities. These regions are primarily agricultural and they may need a unique program to help them. We will wait and see.



Church Building

The congregation was over-joyed when Jason announced our plan to help them to establish their own church building. Jason and Art looked over the land that has been donated and established some possible site designs. Pastor Rolly and Brother Boyong will oversee getting some quotes on the proposed building plan. A couple of options were discussed regarding the timing of the building project. The rice crop currently on the property will need to be harvested. Likely work would start in the Spring prior to the rainy season.

Because the church doesn't have its own bank account yet (They need 10,000 pesos to open an account) we agreed to send them the money to open their own bank account. That amount translates to about \$238.00 CAD and we will do that soon. Once we see a plan in place we will work with their leadership about wiring funds to them as promised.

Questions were raised by our congregation as to land title and construction. After discussing this with Susana and Airyn, they were very willing to permit the building to take place prior to the title transfer. Their main reason is that the process of registering the name of the Church and registering the Church as a Filipino religious, non-

profit organization will take time. Once the Church is registered then the title can be transferred. On advice by Jun Fabra (who has done this a lot in the Philippines), this is a legitimate and wise approach.



New Tribes Mission – Philippines

Jun Fabra and his wife spent a weekend with us. He is the director for the NTM work in the Philippines. He preached on the Sunday and spent much time with us and Pastor Rolly in discussions about church affiliation, voluntary association and registration processes. The conclusion that Pastor Rolly came to and the conclusion that he recommended to his church prior to our departure, was that Dasal Community Baptist Church seek affiliation with a local association of churches within the NTM network. This relationship would be very similar to our own within FEBCC. Dasal remains an independent, autonomous, local church. The association has no authority over them and no claim on property or resources. There are no association fees. All member churches are evangelical and baptistic. The benefit to Dasal is that it provides a means for quicker and more efficient registration with the Philippine government; and the potential for like-minded fellowship in the future. The benefit to Pastor Rolly is that it provides an easy means to be credentialed for marriages, fellowship with other

pastors in the area and wise counsel from Jun Fabra. All in all it is a win/win.



Weddings

We participated in two Filipino weddings. Both were very different yet both were a delight to be part of. Known to you, one of the weddings involved Clever and his new bride Abigail. Both show a sincere love for Christ and amazing potential in Christian service. Clever plans to return to Canada in January; and we pray that Abigail will join him soon.

Jason preached at the first wedding of a couple in Dasal Church. He spoke on God's Design for Marriage from Ephesians 5. Jim preached at the second wedding from John 14:1-3



Conclusion



Again our time was busy and a great joy. We witnessed the spiritual growth of individuals occurring before our eyes. It was a particular delight to have Seth with us and see his energetic interaction with other young people. The Filipino people are some of the warmest, friendliest and most hospitable people in the world. Dasal Community Baptist Church is a growing church and by all appearances a healthy church. Pastor Rolly is conscientious with a godly sense of leadership. He is an effective pastor/teacher. The Church loves to grow, learn; and we witnessed a great love amongst them for one another.

Our visit was not all work. We enjoyed a couple opportunities of swimming; we were taken on an afternoon's sight-seeing tour; and we visited a key city to the north, Baguio, which reflected the beauty of a modern tourist city but also the smothering of busy markets and crowds. Like Manila we saw again the huge contrast between the poor and the wealthy. Our contacts from CCT graced us with the opportunity to stay in their residence in Manila on our way home. We also were able to make contact and have an evening with Michelle's family prior to our departure.

Dasal Community Baptist Church loves you at Elk Point Baptist. They truly have a sincere affection for us with humble gratitude. Some of you may meet some of them before the Lord comes. The great confidence we have is that when Revelation 5:9-10 comes to fruition, we will all be together, eternally, with our Lord. Until then we serve side-by-side, in Salincoh/Dalumpinas and in Alberta's Lakeland - and wherever we see whitened fields (John 4:35).

"The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice; Let the many islands [nations¹] be glad." (Psalm 97:1, NASB95)