

NEWS FROM A CHRISTIAN BROTHER WHO LOVES THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS (but lives in Texas). He travels at least once each year to evangelize in the Philippine Islands, seeking to win to Jesus and to help train others so they can teach and preach truth about Jesus.

0945 Philippine Time Monday 30 September 2013:

Dear All:

Right now, here, we are again off line, so I do not know when this will go out.

Some of September has been too much like some of August. Again, we have had four typhoons hit these islands, two hard enough in the Manila area to flood the streets where we live. With the open wounds on my feet, that means I am effectively held "in house arrest" by the flooding. It is a different manner of living, and one I do not recommend.

Nevertheless, we did have two occasions of great joy. Ten days ago, a precious soul was baptized into Christ. She had been partially taught (via Skype) by an American who may be coming later to visit her and get to know her personally. But she still had a lot of questions. He put us in touch, and Bot and I had several studies with her. In addition, since many of her questions centered on the need for baptism, at our assemblies, she heard three lessons on that. Bot did the baptizing.

Years ago, I gave up baptizing folks here. I was working with two other Americans to hold lectureships in Mindanao. Then after we returned to the Manila area a small community twenty miles or so north of there, one man who had followed us up from Mindanao came to me, wanting me to baptize him so that "my baptism will be solemnized by an American."

Then yesterday, one who had been baptized several years ago, but had since left the church, came back. Bot and I had talked with her several times, and she finally decided she needed to make her life right with the Lord again. So the angels in heaven were not the only ones rejoicing.

Change in plans:---My wife and I had intended to come to the USA on 8 October. One of the main reasons for returning not, then having to go back to the Philippines early in 2014 for her USCIS (Immigration) interview to get her spousal visa is that I have already missed several VA medical appointments. Additionally, there are some things I want to do for her that I cannot do unless we are both in the USA at the same time.

However, our intent did not match up with reality. I guess I should have considered that, with the approaching holiday season, air travel booking would get tight. I travel on EconomyN, a special seating group in the economy section but having extra leg room. The first available date on which we could book two adjacent seats in this section was 23 October. The next after that was sometime in early November. So, God willing, we will arrive at Shreveport, LA, 10:50 PM on Wednesday, the 23rd of October.

We have invited several (2-member) families I've known for years to visit us, and meet my wife. Then if we can do so, we will hold our regular "Little" family thanksgiving dinner and later, another for Christmas, even though it won't be on that specific date. Others in the family have their own plans for Christmas, with kids and grandkids. So for the first time in a long time, life ought to settle down for us.

Virgie is an experienced Bible teacher, and we hope she can be put into the teaching program at the local church where we worship. I see her as a good asset to that work.

At the moment, I do not know whether I will be able to return to the Philippines in 2014 to continue the work here God has privileged me to have for many years now. The last time I had my regular VA periodic check, the doctor told me, "Mr. Little, for a man of your age, you have outstanding health." He emphasized "outstanding health." I heard, "For a man of your age,..." So we will have to wait and see the results of my next check up.

One of the disappointments of this trip is the fact of opportunities we could not take advantage of that were available to us. Had there been sufficient funds, we could have held a second class for young preacher-students, plus we had three more invitations to hold lectureships for older preachers. But our funds were exhausted.

Two tragedies happened on this trip. The first was that a young (in his mid-40s) preacher was murdered execution-style. As nearly as anyone can determine, political opponents of the man he was helping wanted him stopped. So the execution was intentionally staged in such a manner as a warning for others to stay out. Politics are rough here.

The second was only last week. A 48-year-old preacher was in an accident while riding his motorcycle, and never recovered consciousness. I know, time and chance happen to us all (Ecclesiastes 9:01), but these hurt.

Me, who for my many years as a military pilot, had 20/15 eyesight, suddenly, I understand Isaac (Genesis 28:01 and Jacob (Genesis 48:10) - - their eyes were getting dim. Me, too. Each time I have worked a Bible to the point where it was less than useful when trying to use it from the pulpit, I painstakingly copied my marginal notes into its replacement. I am doing that again - - only this time, the replacement has larger print. I am going from a 12-point to a 16-point print, and am not sure that is enough.

Ah well,...the next thing I will face is the need to do sit down while preaching. Ah, the delights of old age - - and I am NOT nearly to the point of these two patriarchs.

Well, this is enough for now. Our best to each one, yours, and all God's faithful wherever you are.

Grace and peace in Christ: Dad/Wally & Virgie Little