



THE HURST FAMILY

MISSIONARIES TO THE

Philippines

2021 Update Letter #1

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, ... Acts 20:24

Dear Pastors & Praying Friends,

Thank you... We appreciate each of you who faithfully holds the rope, praying for us and the ministry here in the Philippines. We pray that the Lord always find us faithful in His work.

Finish Well... Our theme for 2021 challenges each of us to not be swayed and controlled by situations and circumstances around us, but to walk in fellowship and obedience unto the Lord Jesus every day. We should finish each day of our life strong for the glory of God. Paul was not concerned about the challenges before him but focused on the ministry given to him by Christ "to testify the gospel of the grace of God." May we each Finish Well in this life by finishing well one day at a time.

Momentum... In the last prayer letter of 2020, we mentioned that God had again given us the momentum we had before the pandemic. We praise Him for how He has been working in and through our people. In the first two and a half months of 2021 we saw a level of energy and excitement that was contagious. It was such a blessing to see the attitude and spirit of the people as they served the Lord and served others. Our congregation had grown forty percent larger than before the pandemic and that is without our children's ministry, since we cannot pick up children for church. We praise the Lord for many professions of salvation; recent baptisms and the active involvement of over twenty individuals in discipleship.

Unfortunately, the anniversary of the 2020 COVID lockdown here in the Manila area was "celebrated" by implementing new lockdowns, because of a drastic rise in cases. Most stores again were closed, restaurants became take out only and religious gatherings were prohibited then changed to 10% capacity. We continue meeting with many watching from home, but most activities have been postponed.

Beginning this week through the end of April; restrictions are slightly less but still very limited. Please pray for us and our people to continue looking to the Lord and Finish well one day at a time. We believe that God will allow us to regain that momentum yet again. Continue reading as we share more details about God's work here in Antipolo.

Bible Clubs... Because of COVID restrictions, children still are not to be out, therefore we are not able to pick up children for church. So, on Saturdays we have been going to them. We currently have nine Bible clubs with 120+ children participating. The children are excited when our people show up and they want to learn God's Word. These kids are tired of being in-doors, they want someone to care for them and to teach them the Bible. Pray that these restrictions will be lifted so we can begin again and regather the children plus even more.

WWW.HURSTFAM4FILIPINOS.COM

Field Address: Metro View Baptist Church • C. Lawis Ext., Corner Maguey Rd
Brgy San Luis, Antipolo City, Rizal • Philippines 1870 • 63-917-500-6873

Mission Board: Baptist International Missions, Inc./act. 1455 • PO Box 9 • Harrison, TN 37341 • (423) 344 5050 • www.bimi.org

Sending Church: Grace Bible Baptist Church • Dr. Rubin Ruffin, Pastor • 3445 Luke St. • Pensacola, FL 32505 • (850) 434-3440

Youth Time... The teens began the year 2021 with an overnight fellowship, with 50 young people in attendance. Our Youth leaders and a supported missionary couple challenged our young men and ladies from God's Word not to waste their lives on temporal desires with no eternal value. It is exciting to see decisions made, but even more so to see young people go through discipleship, grow and mature spiritually and begin discipling others. What a blessing!

The youth also began meeting two Sunday afternoons each month between services for a time of fellowship and Bible study. The attendance has ranged from 40 to 50, but what a blessing to see a hunger for Truth and godly fellowship in the hearts of teenagers.

Outreach Opportunities... We began the year with "Tract Week" encouraging every member to be involved in at least giving out gospel tracts to those they see throughout the day. That carried over and each week our people began giving out over 1,000 tracts. That led to more people being involved in Saturday soul-winning, Bible studies, Children's Bible clubs and our discipleship program. Praise the Lord!

Fellowship... Everyone loves good fellowship.. Our group fellowships, (youth, men, ladies, and couples), all were being attended by the majority of our membership plus a number of visitors. What a blessing to see individuals strengthen their relationship with the Lord but also to see struggling marriages restored and strengthened in Christ.

Spiritual Warfare... As God has been working, so has Satan. I ask your prayers for all of our core people, especially the Bible Institute students, youth workers, soul-winners and Sunday school teachers. As they have invested themselves in God's work this year, trial after trial is bombarding each of them. We are encouraging all of them to continue forward, faithfully serve and Finish well, one day at a time.

Prayer Requests... Pray for us as we serve our Saviour and represent you here in the Philippines, winning lost souls, seeing them baptized and discipling them to be God's servants.

Pray for the government restrictions to be lifted that we may get back to face to face soul-winning and activities.

Pray for our online and telephone outreach and soul winning.

Please pray for both of Chris's parents and uncle who all are 70+ and COVID positive.

Thank you for your faithful partnership! We appreciate your prayers and financial support.

Christopher & Ivy Hurst

HURSTFAM4FILIPINOS@GMAIL.COM

