

Rick & Becky Martin

Your Missionaries in
Iloilo City, Philippines since 1976

Dear Friends,

The first week of December Iloilo Baptist Church sent two teams which included 16 persons to have "Help the Needy" programs for the people of Marawi City (on the most southern island of the Philippines - Mindanao) and for the T'boli tribe. Marawi City was destroyed by ISIS in 2017 and the people who were almost all Muslims were left to deal with the havoc the ISIS brought on them.

The programs for the T'bolis and the Muslims in Marawi included 4 medical missions that served over 400 people. Three different teams of doctors helped us as we provided the medicine. Toys were given to 2000 children. Groceries were given to 400 families. This newsletter is about the program in Marawi City.

When our team arrived in Marawi City they were reminded by the signs that they were entering the heart of Islam in the Philippines. There are a few "Christians" who are mainly Catholics who are connected with Mindanao State University. A year ago, a bomb went off at a mass held at this college and 4 were killed and 50 were wounded.

There is a real risk of the workers losing their lives by the work they are doing although I don't expect that. It is what the Lord is leading our church to do. Recently the team leader, Anabel, noticed two Muslim ladies in a marketplace here in Iloilo City and asked them where they were from, and they replied that they were from Marawi City. Both said that ISIS had killed their husbands and so they moved to Iloilo City but would return someday. They were so surprised when Anabel told them that she had just been in Marawi City a month ago and when she started showing them pictures of her trip there, they had tears in their eyes.

She is working on getting them just to visit our property but not yet a service as there would be a better chance to get them the gospel after they met some of our staff. She plans to show them the radio station which is the sponsor of the medical mission and Help the Needy program there. Please pray they will get saved.



The city
was
destroyed
but not
this
Mosque



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Getting the medicines ready. On this our first medical mission in Marawi City we used Muslim doctors because the people do not usually trust non-Muslims doctors. However, in the future we plan to bring doctors that are saved.



Waiting to get treated



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The children liked their toys



Teenagers received school supplies



Some children also received school supplies





The whole region is called the Autonomous Region of Mindanao. The gospel has been very limited in its penetration of Marawi City for centuries. On this trip one of our students who is from Marawi City led a friend of her sister, and her friend's mother to Christ. I do believe there are many people in Marawi City who are like this.

Here is her testimony:

"My name is Honeyvie. I am a 4th year student at Iloilo Baptist College. I was born in a Muslim community in Mindanao. Last December I experienced a mission trip. We traveled from Iloilo to Cagayan de Oro with 17 boxes of toys so we could have Christmas parties for the poor children. I brought some Gospel tracts with me.

We traveled to Naawan Baptist Church. I was so happy to share the Gospel with our driver, Roel. Praise God he received Jesus as his Savior!

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I was so thankful to be able to visit my sister, Maricel, in Marawi City. She told me about a friend who was very ill. I told her to take me there so I could witness him. I'm a little afraid because he's Muslim. I kept thinking about what one of our missionaries said: "Let's not die in sickness or accidents... let's die in the mission field."

It gave me courage to go and win the lost at any cost. I asked some friends to pray for me. We went to the house, and I said, "Can we share the Word of God with you?" We hid in the upper room so no one can hear us.

When I opened my Bible, I was shaking because I was to share Jesus with a Muslim in that place. I knew that God was with me, and He would protect me.

He and his mom both accepted Jesus as Savior! She thanked me for sharing Jesus with them. She said, "Maybe now God will hear my prayer and heal my son."

When they prayed "in Jesus' name" I cried. It was an amazing experience."

Our staff met an independent Baptist pastor from Marawi who had been led to Christ years ago. This pastor had been led to Christ, disciplined and trained to preach by Pastor Val Murillo who is in Iligan City, a large city near Marawi City. I first met Val Murillo in 1976 while I was doing a survey trip to the Philippines. He was a student at Bob Hughes' Bible College in Cebu City and took me to the cities of Bacolod and Iloilo to survey the possibility of starting a church. I have seen him several times through the years, and he led this Muslim name Abdol and spent much time discipling him to the place where he became a pastor. He knows so many people in Marawi City, and he has witnessed and won Muslims there as he has a very good testimony in the city. But even he must be careful in what he says and does. Please pray for him as he will also be helping us with the radio station. He has a lot of wisdom on how to win Muslims to the Lord and is unafraid of what could happen to him. The Barangay Captain (Elected Govt official in that part of Marawi City) said that it is fine to have the radio tower and to preach the gospel.

The video attached to this email was made by a teenage girl from our church who went on the trip to Marawi.

Please continue to pray that we can get the gospel to the people of this city.

God bless,

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