PO Box 88 Iloilo City Philippines 5000 martinsiloilo@gmail.com BIMI- PO Box 9 Harrison, TN 37341

PHILIPPINES / OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2026 / MINISTRY UPDATE

May the Lord Find Us Faithful

Celebrating faithfulness • Training leaders • Reaching the world



Honoring pastors for decades of faithful service.

A Conference to Remember

Dear Friends,

What a blessing it was to hold our annual Pastors and Workers Conference! I enjoyed this year's conference as much as any we have ever had. It was a wonderful week of preaching, fellowship, encouragement, and rejoicing in what the Lord is doing.

One of the greatest highlights was honoring pastors who have faithfully served the Lord for 25 years or longer. What a joy to see the lasting fruit of their ministries!

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Investing in the Next Generation

Monday | Music and fellowship

Registration began Monday. Approximately 100 participants attended our music workshop, with about 20 teachers providing instruction. Most classes focused on instruments, and this year we also offered a class for song leaders. Eight Bible colleges and twelve teams of pastors participated in our annual basketball tournament. We encourage our graduates to stay active and healthy so they can serve the Lord for many years.



Music workshop



Pastor Kevin Cowling



Conference registration

Tuesday | Discipleship and church planting

We combined our Discipleship and Church Planters workshops. Twelve speakers delivered thirteen messages. Sessions focused on mentoring families, children, young people and future leaders, as well as lessons learned from mentors. Five speakers taught on "Being Fruitful and Faithful During Your Trials." Pastor Kevin Cowling of Mesa, Arizona, spoke on mentoring children. Two of his sons, who serve on his church staff, accompanied him.

Advancing our radio ministry

Our new technical team planned projects during the radio workshop. Two weeks later, several members successfully resolved a problem at one of our stations.

Pastor Joel Ali, who grew up in an Islamic City- Marawi, accepted Christ as his Savior and was mentored/trained by a pastor trained at Bible Baptist College in Cebu City. He now pastors the church he started in Iligan City. He spoke at the Radio workshop. Please pray for him as he prepares to speak on the Marawi radio station when it becomes operational. He has also led many Muslims to the Lord.



Radio workshop



Fellowship with Pastor Ali & his wife during the conference

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Honoring a Lifetime of Faithfulness

Whenever I ask pastors and workers what they enjoy most about our conference, the majority tell me it is the preaching. This year was no exception! Our five main speakers represented 195 combined years of ministry.



The five main conference speakers were recognized for their years of service.

Jonie Brasileno — 26 years • Bible Baptist Church, Butuan City
Kevin Cowling — 36 years • Valley Baptist Church, Mesa, Arizona
Mike Johnson — 43 years • Shasta Baptist Church, California
Rogelio Baladjay — 44 years • Bible Baptist Church, Mandaue, Cebu
Rick Stonestreet — 46 years • Mountain View Baptist Church, Hesperia, California

Faithful through the storms

Wednesday evening was one of the most memorable services I have ever attended. We honored pastors who have served for 25 years or longer. There were 157 pastors that registered who have been in the ministry that long. Five remarkable men represented those who have endured tremendous trials yet continue to serve faithfully and bear fruit for the Lord.



A special recognition of faithful servants. Brother Caalem was unable to attend.

Faithful Through the Storms

Chrisanto Arsaga | 31 years

More than 15 years ago, I visited his church and saw a display of 21 men he had trained in his night institute, each of whom had started a church. When he began a Bible school with seven students, he and his wife housed them in their home. His wife, a schoolteacher, took out a government loan to build a small dormitory. Two years ago, during our alumni meeting, he received the devastating news that his son had been killed in a motorcycle accident. His wife suffered serious injuries but survived. He continues training men, and five of his new graduates this year have started churches!

Leo Gardose | Faithful despite heartbreak

A year ago, Brother Gardose also lost his teenage son in a similar accident. Through their grief, he and his wife have continued serving the Lord, using their testimony to encourage others while training men and starting churches through their Bible college.

Leny Funtecha | 41 years

In 1992, Brother Funtecha became the first IBC graduate to go to a foreign mission field. He and Marjorie have faced extraordinary trials in Haiti, including attempts to kidnap or kill him. Six graduates of their Bible college have gone to the Dominican Republic to start churches, and another is raising support in Haiti to go to Brazil. At 66, despite Parkinson's disease, he and Marjorie are starting another church in the Dominican Republic. He plans to remain on the mission field for the rest of his life.

Billy Caalem | 43 years

While in Bible school, his father was executed by the New People's Communist Army. He continued his training and started a Bible college in the mountains in 1990. At least two former members of that army whom he trained are now pastors. At 70, he has stage 4 cancer that has spread to his bones. He and his wife Cheryl and children Genevieve and Richard also care for a son who requires round-the-clock assistance. His college has 180 students and 33 graduating classes. He has been our most fruitful graduate in starting churches.

George Cabaya | 32 years

A member of Brother Caalem's first graduating class in 1994, he started a church in Mindanao in 1996 and later a Bible college. In March 2015, Islamic terrorists ambushed a bus he and his wife Magdaline were traveling on, fatally wounding her. More than eleven years later, he continues training pastors and starting churches.

"May the Lord Find Us Faithful"

As the choir sang these words, I was deeply moved. I will never forget that service or the impact these faithful pastors have had for Christ.

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Equipping God's Servants

Thursday morning included three preaching sessions and recognition of outstanding students from each attending Bible college. Each received a guitar to use in outreach ministries. The ladies enjoyed special sessions and an afternoon of fellowship, including choirs made up of pastors' wives.



Ladies' conference



Music from the ladies' choir



Outstanding students with guitars

Putting God's Word into more hands

Following the men's afternoon sessions, most of the 900 registered pastors attended our Bible distribution. Bible college students also received Bibles. We could never thank the ministries and churches that provide these Scriptures enough: BEAMS Bible, Bearing Precious Seed, Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Seedline, and Baptist and Literature Missionary Foundation.



Bible distribution



Pastors receiving boxes



Bibles for ministry



Bibles for college students

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From the Philippines to the World

World Missions Service

Our final Thursday evening service focused on world missions. Approximately ten Filipino foreign missionaries were present, along with some family members. Our annual "standing offering" allowed people to give directly to the missionaries. There are now approximately 350 Filipino Independent Baptist missionaries serving in 65 countries. Ernest Paul Ajito, who grew up in our church, is on deputation in the Philippines preparing to serve in South Sudan. Please pray for these missionaries as they take the Gospel to the regions beyond.



More Bible distribution



Alumni meeting



Giving offerings directly to missionaries



The annual standing offering

Please pray with us

Pray for the health and encouragement of our pastors and their families, Bible college students, the radio ministry in Marawi, Filipino missionaries around the world, and the training of more pastors to establish more churches.



A panoramic view of the IBC Alumni Meeting Friday morning.

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Planning for Greater Outreach

Friday morning brought our best-attended alumni meeting ever! Three speakers shared valuable lessons learned in ministry. I also shared about my missionary mentor, Don Sisk, whose impact on our ministry I wrote about in our last newsletter.



Following the messages, our graduates divided into geographical groups to plan how to start more churches. They received another volume of materials to help train men in their own churches to become church planters. These alumni meetings are critical in starting more churches.



Pastors with training materials for future ministry.

Thank you for standing with us!

Becky and I are so thankful for your faithful prayers, encouragement, and support. What a blessing to see pastors training other pastors, churches starting other churches, and missionaries being sent from the Philippines around the world. Thank you for standing behind what the Lord is doing here in the Philippines!

God bless,

Rick and Becky Martin