

Island Gospel Ministries, Bohol Inc.

*Bohol – Philippines
December 9, 2023*

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners

Another two months have gone by and Christmas, 2023, is almost upon us. These months have been spent largely in school ministry at BMCA (Bohol Maranatha Christian Academy) and overseeing the dorm building project at Admin. We were determined to get out to the islands more and were able to attend several island church activities. Here are a few snippets.

One blessing was the Banacon Church Anniversary. The visiting speaker was a fellow who had been jailed for life for drug offences, but was saved through a prison ministry, and five years later released from prison. He continued to minister in that prison, started a church in the local town, and is now a full-time church pastor and minister to the prison inmates. He gave a very clear gospel message and an invitation, and several people came forward for salvation including his sister who lives in Banacon and came along to the Anniversary service.



Banacon Church Anniversary



Jagulio 31st Church Anniversary



Jagulio Church & Manse



We also attended Jagulio's Church Anniversary and were blessed to see a good crowd, with many involved in presentations, and a new church manse for the pastor, and many happy faces.

We were invited to speak at Hingotanan Church's Thanksgiving Service. This island is about an hour and a half from Talibon going towards Leyte. We left Talibon pier about 7:30 am to arrive

in time for the Sunday morning service, only to be told upon arrival that it would start at 2pm. It turned into a very long hot day, but the time spent with the church folk was very encouraging.



Hingotanan Thanksgiving Service



A long walk back to the boat at low tide.



Heading home into the sunset.

We were also invited to speak at Jandayan Church's Thanksgiving service. Jandayan Island is close to the mainland and their service did start at the normal Sunday morning service time.



Again it was a blessing to see the work that had been done on the buildings, and the good number attending and involved in the service.

A highlight for Junjun & Cara was the opportunity to attend a CCI (Crossing Cultures Int) Conference in Thailand, together with 200 other delegates from countries around the world who are also teaching the CCI/BTCP curriculum in their local Bible Schools. This was Jun & Cara's first overseas trip and they thoroughly enjoyed meeting the other attendees, experiencing the Thai culture, and having a brief Singapore stopover as well.



Grace was invited by her sister to attend a company retreat being held in Davao. They were actually in their hotel elevator when the 6.9 magnitude earthquake you may have heard about hit southern Mindanao. Fortunately, it did not affect Davao very much, and they didn't really notice it until they got out of the elevator and saw the reaction of the people outside the hotel who had felt it. Since then, there have been several major earthquakes reported in southern, central, and northern Philippines. We have not felt anything here in Bohol, for which we are very thankful.

We celebrated the 8th Anniversary of the founding of our island churches association with all our island pastors, and we very much enjoyed an invitation to join with some of our local American friends to celebrate a very yummy Phil-Am Thanksgiving Day meal together.



Grace & Lene



Thanksgiving Dinner



The AICF Pastors



BMCA Foundation Day

It has also been a busy time of activity and involvement in the Christian School. Grace & I have enjoyed teaching the Personal Development class to the Grade 11 students, and I was privileged to speak at the school's Foundation Day Service. A big blessing was having Luz Morris visiting us from Oz during the Foundation Week activities, together with all three of her siblings.



School Staff, Board Members, & Visitors



Grade 11 Mid-Term Exams – Ugghhh!

Thank you so much for all your prayers and support throughout the year. The past few months have been a tremendous struggle for me personally. I'm very thankful for the encouragement received from those who pray, and write, and give. Knowing you are praying means a great deal. Best wishes for a very blessed Christmas and New Year.

Steve & Grace, Junjun & Cara, and all at IGM.

[Keep in touch with us at iombohol@yahoo.com]