

FIRST QUARTER NEWS LETTER

MACTAN CHURCH OF CHRIST, CEBU, PHILIPPINES

A Blessing from Texas – Ken and Gilbert’s Visit to Cebu



Brother Ken Hysten and Brother Gilbert Perez arrived here in Cebu City on January 17, bringing warmth and encouragement all the way from San Antonio, Texas. After spending eleven meaningful days with our community, they headed back home on the 28th. Their trip was planned to strengthen the bond between our local congregations and the church family in Mac Arthur, and it truly brought us all closer together.

We felt so grateful to have the chance to get to know them personally beyond just phone calls and messages. Throughout their stay, they actively joined us in our regular gatherings – from our weekly Sunday worship services to our mid-week bible studies. Brother Ken took time to prepare and preach a powerful message during one of our Sunday services, sharing insights that touched many hearts. Meanwhile, Brother Gilbert led us in heartfelt prayer, helping us lift up our concerns and give thanks for all the good things in our lives.

They made sure to connect with as many of our brethren as possible, visiting groups from Mactan, Marigondon, and Sudtunggan areas. One of the highlights of their trip was the journey to Olango Island, where they spent time with the congregation there, listening to their stories. When we weren't at church, we shared meals together with my family and Brother Dodong. These simple moments of eating and talking helped us build deeper friendships and understand each other better.

Their visit came at just the right time, serving as a beautiful reminder that we are never alone in our journey of faith. No matter what circumstances we face here in Cebu, we know we have a loving church family who are always praying for us. Every conversation, every worship session, and every shared meal was a gift. We are thankful for their willingness to travel all this way to be with us – their visit was truly a blessing that we will remember for a long time.



BIBLE STUDIES



BAPTISM

We are joyful to share about the baptism of two wonderful men who have chosen to follow the Lord –Jundel Diama and Jerich Mhelchizedik Polo.

Jundel is 25 years old and came all the way from Bohol. Not long ago, he realized that his true passion is to help spread the Gospel, so he made the brave choice to leave his job and pursue this calling. He is now studying at the Philippine Institute of Biblical Studies (PIBS) to grow in his knowledge of God's word. Jundel is a fast learner who shows great courage and potential to become a preacher one day. He also has a gift for leading songs during worship, and his voice helps lift our hearts in praise. Please help us pray for him as he continues his studies and serves the Lord – that he will stay strong in his faith and be filled with wisdom for the work ahead.

Jerich Mhelchizedik is the son of one of our members from Sudtunggan. He is a young man with a hungry heart for God, always eager to learn more about the Bible and grow in his faith. What makes us so proud is that he isn't just keeping what he learns to himself – he has the guts to share the Gospel with his friends and peers. Even though it can be hard to talk about faith with people his age, Jerich doesn't hold back because he wants others to know the love of Jesus too.

As we welcome both Jundel and Jerich into our church family through baptism, let us continue to lift them up in prayer. May they be strong in their walk with Christ, and may their lives be a light to everyone they meet.



Spreading the Gospel is at the heart of the church's work, and it happens in meaningful ways through prospecting and bible studies. Prospecting means reaching out to people in the community who may not know about God's love yet – it could be through simple conversations, meeting neighbors, or connecting with those who are looking for hope and guidance. It's about building bridges and showing care for others, so they feel welcome to learn more about Christ.

Bible studies are where these connections grow deeper. When people come together to read and discuss God's word, they get to understand what the Bible says about life, faith, and God's plan for them. Each study session is a chance to ask questions, share thoughts, and learn how to apply scripture to daily life. Whether it's a small group in someone's home, a gathering at church, or meeting with a single person one-on-one, these studies help believers grow stronger and guide those who are new to faith on their journey.

The couple from Sister Victoria's neighborhood now joins in regular bible study sessions, eager to explore more of God's teachings. Additionally, the other picture where Brother Gilbert and Brother Ken are present shows a family who is very receptive and willing to know more about Christ – their openness to learning has been a blessing to everyone involved in the study.

Both prospecting and bible studies work hand in hand to spread the good news. Prospecting opens the door to share God's love with more people, while bible studies help them build a solid foundation in their faith. Through these efforts, the church family is able to reach out to their community, build lasting relationships, and help others discover the peace and joy that comes from knowing Christ. Help us continue to pray that more hearts will be open to hearing God's word and that many will choose to follow Him.

LADIES ACTIVITIES



LADIES IN FAITH – SERVING AND GATHERING TOGETHER

The church ladies are actively working to build one another up in the Lord, with meaningful activities that bring them closer as sisters in Christ. These efforts help them stay strong in their faith and support each other through all of life's ups and downs.



Every month, they conduct home visitations and bible studies. During these times, they go to each other's houses to share God's word, pray together, and check in on how everyone is doing. It is a special chance to strengthen their bonds and encourage one another – whether someone is facing a hard time or celebrating good news. They talk about scripture, share their experiences, and remind each other that they are not alone in their journey of faith.



In addition to their local gatherings, ladies from the Mactan and Sd tunggan congregation recently joined the 69th Ladies Intercon event, which was hosted by the Moalboal church ladies. The whole event was centered on Romans 12:2, which tells believers not to conform to the ways of this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of their minds. It was a great opportunity to meet sisters from other churches, learn from their stories, and grow together in understanding God's plan for their lives. They came home feeling refreshed and inspired to live out their faith more fully.



These activities show how important it is for them to come together – both within their own church and with other believers. They are thankful for the chance to serve, learn, and grow alongside each other as they follow Christ.



The church ladies held a feeding program where they shared meals with children and taught them about God's great love. They told the kids how important it is to have God in their lives, using simple words that the little ones could understand. The children were happy to eat together and learn about Jesus, and the ladies enjoyed spending time with each of them.

While the children were being taught, my wife, Catherine, took the chance to help the neighborhood ladies too. She taught them how to make dishwashing soap as a way to earn a living. But more than learning a new skill, this time was used to get to know the women better, build good relationships with them, and introduce them to Christ. It was a special opportunity to show God's love not just through words, but through helping and caring for others.