

To the Brethren Who Supported Our Amazing Journey,

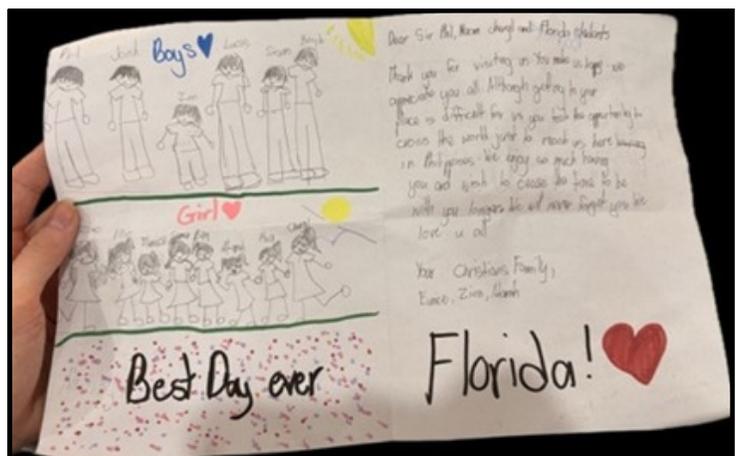
Overview of the Mission: Nine Florida College students joined Phil and Cheryl Robertson for an eight-day mission trip to the Philippines. We visited seven churches, and one school to share the faith, hope, and transformation found in King Jesus.

The nine Florida College students were vital to the success of this journey dedicated to encouraging Philippine Christians of all ages. From the moment they arrived, they immersed themselves in the community with warmth and appreciation. The young men served by preaching and leading singing and devotions, while the young women taught children's classes and mentored the local young women.

These interactions profoundly impacted the brethren of all ages. Whether reuniting with old friends or meeting new ones, the Filipino children and teens were encouraged to see that they are not alone in their faith. Despite cultural differences, they saw the Lord's light in the students, forming bonds that will continue through digital communication for years to come.

Ultimately, the FC students were just as inspired by the deep faith of their Philippine brethren. Their shared bond was best expressed through the song, "If We Never Meet Again This Side of Heaven." They departed with the bittersweet realization that while they may not meet again on earth, they are determined to be reunited in eternity.

(Written by **Cheryl Robertson**)



Saturday evening the group landed and immediately got to work at the home of Rolando and Ludy. These brethren are a source of abundant hospitality for the Christians in Vigan City. Having built hospitality suites onto their home, they use their house as a space for spiritual and social interaction among the saints in Vigan. We sang hymns led by John Sample and Brady Schmidt, followed by VBS songs led by Sam Penn. Lukas Smelser then delivered a devotional on God's love. Finally, the young men, young women, and adults formed breakout groups. This time was used for study, prayer, and relationship-building. The evening was especially impactful for both the group and our Filipino brethren, allowing for meaningful reunions and the beginning of new friendships

(Written by **Lukas Smelser**)



We had never experienced hospitality like what we received in the home of Rolando and Ludie Azurin. We stayed with them for two nights, just a short walk from their church in Vigan City. Each morning, we woke to the sound of children laughing outside our windows and women preparing meals for us. On Sunday morning, we walked hand in hand with neighborhood children to church, where we were warmly greeted by about seventy members. Phil taught the Bible class on our King Jesus, and Sam led the singing. Lukas then preached on how to practically live like King Jesus, while Ellie and Cheryl taught the children through songs and Bible stories. As this was the first church we visited on the trip, tears filled our eyes as we sang alongside our brethren. It was a powerful reminder that whether on home soil or foreign soil, we are united in praising our King Jesus. We look forward to the day when no sea or language will separate us, and we can praise our King together in Heaven for eternity.

(Written by **Macey Smith**)





We had the privilege of visiting Malingeb Bantay Church of Christ on Sunday afternoon. This congregation of about forty believers, all from the surrounding neighborhood. It was formed in 2008 and has continued to grow since. Though the community faces deep physical poverty, it overflows with a richness of love—for one another and for God—that you can feel the moment you arrive! Their excitement and joy to meet together was contagious! Lukas and Sam presented lessons, and Phil facilitated a Bible study. Meanwhile, Sheryl, Zoe, and Ellie poured into the kids with an engaging Bible class. Afterward, we walked down to a canal in the middle of the rice fields to watch a member of their community put on Christ in baptism! The brethren there had been studying with this man, who was formerly a Seventh Day Adventist. It was a very beautiful scene to watch! One of the most amazing aspects of this church was that there are so many kids bursting with an eagerness and energy to worship God! This is a church we will never forget! (Written by **Sam Penn**)

On Sunday morning, Emma Kate, John, Brady, and Summer traveled down to Cabugao to lead the worship. The preaching there is regularly taken care of by brother Egdon and his wife, Faith, who have been working with that congregation for over 20 years. They are in a new building that was finished last August and are worshiping with around 70 brethren. For the worship service, Brady and John both led songs and gave sermons about “discipleship and holiness” while Emma Kate and Summer taught the children’s bible class with Sister Faith. Our lessons were translated by a local preacher, Ronald John, who traveled with the whole week translating into the local language, Ilokano. Our girls noticed that the children were very educated in their bibles, which shows the teachers are doing a great job with teaching their children. There were also so many young men and women in the church who step up to serve their church family. It was encouraging to worship with so many who have a passion for the same God as us! We had a chance to visit with Egdon and Faith over lunch at their house, where again we were encouraged by their love for Gods people. (Written by **John Sample**)



On Sunday afternoon, the same group of students traveled with brethren about two hours to Banna City. We were immediately welcomed by around 80 brethren in and around the church building, all with open arms and smiling faces, excited to meet us.

Brother Matt and John Sibayan built an extended roof specifically for this service. Even with the heat, it did not stop the brethren from coming to hear the Word. John and Brady both delivered sermons, which were translated by our brother John Sibayan, who faithfully translated for us throughout the week.

Emma Kate and Summer taught a children’s Bible class of about 20 kids with Sister Ronalyn Sibayan. The children were enthusiastic and excited to sing songs and learn about Noah and the Ark. After services, we spent about an hour fellowshiping with the brethren, moving from the church building to nearby homes.

(Written by **Summer Grushon**)



On Monday, December 15th, we visited The Write Way, a school run by our dear sister Ms. Katrina.

The school is a prep school that prepares students to go abroad and work. This school focuses on helping young students grow not only in knowledge but also in faith. This was our second year being invited to speak there.

We led a study on how the Lord can guide us through mental struggles. There were about 70 people in attendance with a mix of students and teachers. Phil opened with an introduction, followed by singing. We then broke into small groups to discuss how we can use Scripture and the support of the brethren to combat these struggles by strengthening our faith and continually turning to God in prayer.

After regrouping, Brady Schmidt gave a talk on Lamentations 3, emphasizing the faithfulness of God. Lukas Smelser then shared about the passing of his brother Adam, explaining how that difficult time challenged his faith, but also how Adam's faithfulness strengthened him when he was asking "why." (Written by **Brady Schmidt**)



On Tuesday night, we were blessed to reunite with our brothers and sisters at the Laoag City Church of Christ. The church was packed so full that many had to stand in the back or sit on the stairs just to be able to be all together in one room. Sam opened the evening with a lesson from 1 Samuel 14, and Lukas led us in song. Hearing our brothers and sisters sing so passionately and boldly, no matter the language, was incredibly encouraging. We were also grateful to be able to split into four groups, with Phil leading the adults, the boys guiding the young men, Cheryl and Maecy teaching the children, and the rest of the girls walking alongside the young women. At the end of the night, we came back together as one family. Brady led a devotional on correcting your brother in love, reminding us of the love and humility it takes to care for one another. We then stood side by side as our dear brother and friend, Ferninand, led us in the song “If We Never Meet Again,” a powerful and emotional reminder that of our shared hope of Heaven. (Written by **Ellie Thorpe**)



Wednesday morning, we got up and went to a congregation in Pagudpud. We were picked up by Matt, Ronalyn, John, and Ruby Sibayan, who stayed with us throughout our entire trip! We also traveled with a young man named Lourvie, a college student studying agriculture who occasionally preaches for a few congregations.

On our drive to the church building, Ellie, Brady, and Zoe learned some Ilocano from our companions and sang songs that everyone knew. It was sweet to bond over the things we share in common and the things we could teach each other.

We drove up a mountain and pulled off to the side of the road to reach the church. The brethren there greeted us warmly with smiles, handshakes, and hugs. Since it was a regular work and school day, not all of the members were present, but there were still around forty people gathered! During the service, we sang and prayed in Ilocano, which was beautiful. Some of the songs were ones we sing in English, so we joined together—singing in different languages but all praising the same God.



After church, we spent time visiting with the brethren and then went to Abraham's home for a potluck. Abraham has built another church building on his property, where he also preaches. He lives in the middle of a rice farm nestled in a valley in Pagudpud. Despite struggling with health issues, he continues to support both congregations faithfully. This visit was humbling—it was inspiring to see their unwavering dedication to God's work, regardless of the physical challenges surrounding them. (Written by **Zoe Everett**)



On our last day, we went to a church in Batac City in the middle of the day on a Thursday. During a busy work and school day, more than 50 brethren gathered to worship together. The church meet in the home of Raymond and Mary Ann Ledesma's (the preacher and his wife). Raymond has built an extension to the outside of their home to accommodate space for the Christians in Batac City to meet. The house was open air and built with bamboo trusses and a tin roof. However, to us those a grand structure, as glorious as the Temple, because the glory of the Lord was being revealed through his people. Their worship was enthusiastic and uplifting. They were so welcoming and showed incredible hospitality to welcome us as well as Christians every week into their home to worship.

We worshipped and sang hymns in Ilocano. It was beautiful to hear tunes to hymns we knew in their native language. Sam and Brady delivered sermons while John Sibayan translated. Matt Sibayan wrapped up the service encouraging the brethren to long for their eternal inheritance. It was so encouraging to see the desire these brethren have to be together as much as they can despite the life circumstances surrounding them. (Written by **Emma Kate Jarvis**)



We want to sincerely thank you for your generous support and participation in this evangelistic endeavor. Your contributions made it possible for us to cover the airfare, lodging, and meals for the students who took part in this mission. In addition, we were blessed to extend benevolent and financial assistance to many preachers and their families, as well as purchase and distribute Bibles to two congregations.

Every dollar given was used to further this ministry and its outreach. If you would like a detailed breakdown of how the funds were spent, we would be happy to share that information with you.

Thank you once again for your kindness, prayers, and unwavering support of both the students and the work being done in the Philippines.

In Christian love,
Phil Robertson



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