



# THE PATTON FAMILY

## Missionaries in Bacolod City, Philippines

Dear Pastor and Church Family,

Happy New Year from the Patton family! The Philippines wholeheartedly celebrates the new year by making as much noise as possible with firecrackers, fireworks, and even sirens. With concrete making up most of the structures here, you can only imagine the noise level on January 1, 2025, at 12 am. But we are so grateful to be here and welcome another year in ministry.

November 1 marks All Saints' Day which is celebrated nationally and globally by Catholics. The main public streets leading to the cemeteries are shut down as thousands of people flock to pray for their dead loved ones. It was a great opportunity for our church to pass out tracts. As we walked through one of the public cemeteries, it was sad to see these people with false hope, but we pray that they would read the tract and find that blessed hope through Jesus Christ.

Also in November, we had one of our highest numbers on a Sunday, and although we know that the number of people in our services is not the end goal, it was wonderful to see a packed room with saved and unsaved. Salvation is presented weekly in the services, fellowships, and kids ministry. So many here are either professing Catholics, some other religion, or "already saved." Those who have claimed to accept Christ do not have a biblical understanding of salvation. We pray that as we teach and reteach and explain salvation, the knowledge of biblical salvation will bring about conviction and repentance.

Marissa celebrated her birthday at Saturday Bible club with about 50 children and several moms in attendance. We were humbled by the love our new friends



here showed to my wife on her special day. Our family also enjoyed a quiet evening at home to celebrate American Thanksgiving.

December events started right away with a ladies meeting hosted by our church. Close to 35 ladies packed into our home to hear about God's Gift of Peace by a pastor's wife at a church near us. The fellowship was sweet and several ladies were spoken to about salvation. No one accepted Christ that evening, but seeds were sown. We continue to host the weekly Bible Clubs on Saturdays for the kids, and Marissa holds a young and teen girls Bible Study on Tuesdays. Both ministries are doing well. The children are growing, learning more and more about the Bible each week (as well as some of the mothers who attend on Saturdays).

Marissa also got a chance to speak at a small singles ladies gathering at a church across town. She was blessed by the Christian fellowship there.

Nothing quite prepares you for living time zones away, experiencing Christmas far from family and dear friends. But our family was blessed beyond measure this year as we were surrounded by church family and friends. We love those we get to spend time with here. Our hearts were full this end of the year as we reflected on all God has done. This time last year, there was no church. Many services, we sat in an empty room we prayed would soon be filled with people looking for Jesus. Seeing what God has done in our corner of the world is an amazing tribute to His power.

Please pray for us in the coming year. Our greatest desire is to see more salvations, baptisms, and spiritual growth in Grace Baptist Church of Bacolod. Continue to pray as we train believers to be a light in this dark city.

You can see our update video of 2024 by searching *Patton Family Missions* on YouTube. Thank you for your support and prayers, church. There is no way we could serve here without your faithfulness. God bless you!

Serving the Lord with Gladness,

The Pattons - Nathan, Marissa, Landon, and Logan

