

January 2021

2020 has been an extremely challenging year worldwide, and the Philippines is no exception.

A series of powerful earthquakes hit the southern Philippines during the last two weeks of October 2019.



The October earthquakes caused considerable damage in Southern Mindanao, which is home to several Cebu Bible College students and graduates. This region is also home to relatives of several CBC staff members who were impacted by this disaster. CBC students and faculty began working in the disaster region during the year end break in December and early January, supported by **Healing Hands International**. We focused our disaster relief efforts on church members in the Kidapawan and Makilala areas of Southern Mindanao. A team of 12 CBC students and staff traveled to the region in mid-December and began to rebuild or repair the homes of 15 church member families and to help repair the facility of Southern Mindanao Bible College, a sister 2-year Bible college in the region which was heavily damaged in the earthquake.



Mindanao Earthquake Recovery Region

After this disaster relief work in Mindanao, we started our 2nd semester of the 2019/2020 school year in January with 18 students enrolled. Then in March, the Corona virus hit the Philippines and the "General Community Quarantine" went into effect on March 15, which locked down most of the city. Students had to be quarantined on campus, and most students have not been able to leave campus since March 15. Most schools in the Philippines had to shut down because of the quarantine, but since our students live on campus and most of our teaching staff live on or near campus, we were able to continue classes and complete the 2nd semester in May.

We have six students who were looking forward to graduating in May at the end of the 2019/2020 school year, but because of the quarantine we had to postpone our May graduation ceremony. Our graduation candidates included 2 attaining an AA degree (Jeniño Rizaba and Jimson Barraquias) and 4 attaining a BA degree (Darwin

Magallanes, Jun Mark Bayarcal, Edison Corpuz, and Jeffrey Demayo). We are excited to see how the Lord uses each of these graduates in His kingdom work.

As we approached the end of the semester, it became obvious the virus was growing and the quarantine would continue. Since students would be unable to leave campus for their annual summer field work with local churches and ministers, we decided that our best option was to offer a full set of classes during the summer session. The added summer classes enabled two students, Marvin Catinza and Charliemagne Fabillar, to complete the coursework required for graduation at the end of the summer session and they began their internship with churches in the Cebu province in August. Ramonito Nano also completed all the classroom requirements for his BA degree in December and began his ministry internship in January.

During the summer, the virus escalated, and the guarantine became even more strictly enforced, with all public transportation suspended. Most of the annual summer church youth events were canceled and recruiting for the new school year became very difficult, but we were able to identify 3 new students who could join us for the 2020/2021 school year that began in late August. We began the new school year in August with 13 students. Since we recently added higher speed internet service, this has enabled us to have both of our former directors of CBC, Jeff Shelton and Marvin Whitt, teach our students remotely this semester. This gives our students an opportunity to experience different teachers, and we are excited about the future with these possibilities.

We completed the first semester of the 2020/2021 school year in December, and because of the difficulty to travel home because of travel restrictions, most students stayed on campus during the December holiday break and worked on several facility improvement projects for the CBC campus.

As you can see, 2020 has been an incredibly challenging year, but CBC has continued to train students for ministry, and we have been able to complete even more classroom training than originally planned.



Thank you for your continued support of Cebu Bible College. Donations to CBC can be made through the Philippine Ministry fund at the Southside Church of Christ, Lexington, Kentucky. As the pandemic subsides, we pray that our students and graduates will be an even greater catalyst for Kingdom growth in South East Asia.

May God continue to bless all of us as we serve in His Kingdom and spread the Good News of Jesus. Please continue to include CBC and our students in your prayers as we train ministers and evangelists to spread His message of Good News to the Philippines and beyond.

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