

Good Morning to our Dear Co-Workers in the life changing Gospel about Jesus,

It is January 2, 2024 today and we really want to say Happy New Year to each of you dear people who have stood so, so faithfully with us in the work - for so, so, so long. We pray that 2024 is a hugely good year for each of us and that much Glory will be given to our Lord through our lives. We praise God for you all who partner with us in the work of bringing the Salvation message to the Higaanon and Talaandig people.

2023 was a brilliant year for Deb and I. During the month of December we visited many of our churches and our hearts burst with joy. We were present and I was able to teach the Lord's Word at the opening of our Landing church and also our Danao church – 2 new church plants that have happened this year. 60 souls in Landing and 30 in Danao.

While we were at Danao and I sat waiting for the time that I would preach, there was a little boy of about 6 or 7 years old, sitting next to me playing with the hairs on my arm and quite intrigued by them – I guess he has not seen people before with hairy arms like mine. And as I sat, I was just in awe of what the Lord has allowed us to see in the work that he has entrusted us to.

Every 6 months, all the pastors and elders from the entire work meet together, and this past 6 months 100 or so of them met, and they reported to Deb and I that we now are teaching in 102 locations, and that 72 of these locations, are churches with more than 20 members. A handful of these churches are large, being upwards of 100, 200 and 300 people. Many people have trusted Jesus this year and there have been many baptisms. Early December in Tumpagon, we baptised 100+ new believers. When we had almost finished the baptism, 2 young teenage girls came forward and said, "We have been saved also through your High School ministry, and we want to be baptised too." Wow!! So the women leaders took these 2 girls aside and asked them all about what had happened to them and upon seeing that they were indeed saved, they had them go into the river and they were baptised also.

Work wise – we have completed the series that we call "**He Wants You**" which is the 46 lesson series that we teach to bring people to Christ, and the very name of this series reveals the heart of its message.

This year (2024), our goal, under the prompting of our Lord, is to produce our next series and it is to be called – "**He Wants Everyone**" and it is going to be teaching on the book of Acts where the Lord began, after he returned to heaven, to have the beautiful message of salvation preached to the entire world, including our area here in the Philippines. The Lord indeed is not willing that anyone should perish and he wants his message of salvation presented to every person in the whole world.

Exciting News for Deb and I as we enter this year – our beloved son Jubab and his fiancé Freya, are to be married. On Jan 27, Deb and I, Lord willing, will fly to Australia and then on Feb 3 Jubab and Freya will wed. How beautiful this is for Debbie and I to see our beloved son find his girl who he will serve the Lord with as Deb and I have served the Lord together. Please note these dates and pray for our family as we experience these joys.

Another thing that we are trusting the Lord for in 2024 – we are going to have the Higaonon New Testament published. Next week we are to have the final read through with a couple of our Higaonon believers before we send it to the Philippine Bible Society to be printed. **How amazing is God that he has allowed 2 New Testaments** to come out of our work here.

I will end here this morning with great thanks in my heart for Jesus, and for the fact that he has allowed each of us to take a part in his great work,

Love, Paul and Deb