

# ROCK OF AGES MINISTRIES

*"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord." II Corinthians 4:5*

Dr. Terry R. Ellis, *President* | Dr. Ricky Dunsford, *Executive Vice President*

April 29, 2016

Dear Pastor and Faithful Friends,

Since our last newsletter we have many blessing to share. We celebrated, in Manila the 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rock of Ages Baptist Chapel in New Bilibid Penal Farm Prison. We preached to a packed chapel followed with testimonies from the inmates. During the invitation, 30 folks made profession of faith in Jesus Christ, Praise the Lord!

Funding was provided, by our faithful supporting churches for the upgrading of our computer system at the Makati Office. This office space is on the seventh floor at Bethany Baptist Church. This is the World Missions floor for the church and they provided an office space for our ministry many years ago, again another great blessing.

On the Negros Occ. Island, outside of Bacolod City there are two new prison facilities that have been built and houses both men and women inmates. One is located in Victoria's City and the other prison is just a few kilometers' from the town of Sum-ag, on the opposite side of Bacolod City. In the preaching services from these two prisons there were 54 professions of faith, Amen!

There are many islands in the Philippines that are not very large but do have small villages on them. Our desire is to reach out to them with the gospel as well. A couple weeks ago we visited one such island, along with the Wonser family in Cebu and passed out 500 Old and New Testament Bibles, plus hundreds of gospel tracts. Plans are to visit again and gather them for a Bible Study and a preaching service.

Often we talk about life after prison for the inmates and our desire to get them involved in a local church in their community. I'd like to share this testimony of a women released from prison. Sis. Mercy Soabas is the fruit that remains. She is a mother of three children who spent 7 years in prison at Mandaluyong City Jail. During her incarceration she got saved during one of our Rock of Ages Ladies Bible Study that's conducted every Friday morning. In 2011 she was released from prison with no place to go. Sis. Nanette, our Rock of Ages missionary, who teaches the Bible studies in the ladies prison approached her pastor, Gilbert Toquero. She asked her pastor, "if Sis. Mercy attended church faithfully would he consider allowing her to work at the churches canteen." Sis. Nanette shared her home with Mercy during this time. Sis. Mercy's work ethic and character was so noticeable by all the church folks that after one year Pastor Toquero asked her to become one of the church's secretaries. In September of 2014 Sis. Mercy enrolled in Laloma Baptist Bible Institute and Lord willing will be graduating in April of 2017. What a testimony of the changing power of God in a new believer's life, truly *"old things are passed away."*

Because of Him,

*The Stikeleathers*

Larry/Diane Stikeleather

Isa. 58:8-12