



The Bruce Rice Family

IN THE PHILIPPINES

Field Address

P.O. Box 157
Dipolog City 7100
Zamboanga del Norte
Philippines
63-917-577-4610

Sending Church

Higher Plain Baptist Church
6810 N.W. 122nd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73142
USA
405-702-7715

Mission Board

Baptist International Missions, Inc.
P.O. Box 9
Harrison, TN 37341
USA
423-344-5050

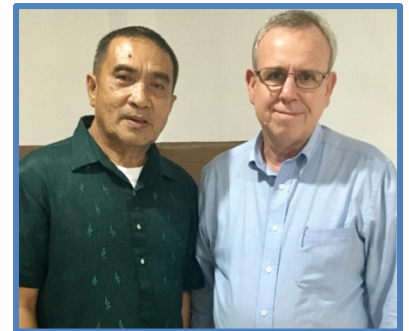
November 12, 2019

In the mid-1980's, Anastacio Caballero was working for a multi-national company at a manufacturing plant in Cagayan de Oro City. Anastacio detested Americans. He was a communist party sympathizer and was discreetly working as a leftist labor organizer. When the company discovered his under-the-radar activities he lost his job.

The younger brother of Anastacio was a Baptist pastor, starting a church in a city 90 minutes east of Cagayan de Oro City. I was one of the guest speakers during the anniversary celebration of that young church in 1990. As I was preaching that morning, a man in his late 30's entered the auditorium followed by his family. When he looked up and saw me in the pulpit, he immediately turned around and marched his family back out the door. The pastor saw them leave and quickly went after them. Of course, I had no idea it was the pastor's brother. After several minutes, the pastor reentered the room, guiding the man and his family to some vacant seats in the back.

I concluded my message and was soon followed by the last speaker for the occasion. At the close of the message, an invitation was given. One of the first persons to walk down the aisle was Anastacio. The pastor asked me to witness to him, but wisely did not tell me who he was or how he felt about Americans. The only place I could find that looked somewhat private was down a narrow hallway beside the altar area. Bad choice. The man and I sat down on a small bench beside what appeared to be an exit door. I began to explain to him the way of salvation. I soon realized the exit door was actually the only restroom in the church.

A few minutes into the Gospel presentation, the church service was finished, and preparation began for the anniversary meal. In spite of all the distractions, and the feelings he had toward Americans, Anastacio Caballero trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior. The change in his life was immediate and drastic. Anastacio and his family lived in Cagayan de Oro City, so the next Sunday they all attended our church for the first time. Soon afterwards his wife Flor was saved. They had two boys in elementary school and a 5-year-old daughter named Florie Ann. As time passed, all the children were saved also. They became one of the most faithful families in the church. A few years later Anastacio graduated from our evening Bible institute.



A couple of months ago I preached in a Bible conference at a church in Davao City that was started almost 25 years ago by a B.I.M.I. missionary. Last year a Filipino became pastor of the church. The wife of that new pastor is Florie Ann, the daughter of Anastacio Caballero. What a thrill to see her now serving the Lord as the wife of a pastor. Even as I type this sentence it brings tears to my eyes.

Last week I preached in a mission conference at a church in Ozamis City that was started by another B.I.M.I. missionary. That church is now pastored by another one of our converts from Cagayan de Oro City. One of the guest speakers in that mission conference was Pastor Anastacio Caballero. Praise God for the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And thank God for the multitudes of churches and Christians who make it possible to take the Gospel to the uttermost part of the earth.

Bruce & Florie