

Dear precious co-workers and prayer partners in the Lord,

We continually experience God's love and are greatly encouraged, even amidst the pandemic, as you unwaveringly pray and support God's work here in the Talaandig Tribe, Lapoc Region, and we see His Spirit changing hearts.

A lot of exciting and praiseworthy events have happened, and we would like to share them with you. The following is a report we have compiled in regards to the work God is doing throughout the 7 Mission Churches in our region. ❤️

A Bountiful Harvest

Since the pandemic started, 23 new Bible study groups have formed, 11 of which are from this year. So far, we now have a total of 29 Bible Study groups in our region. Here are some of the latest groups formed:



The Signocan family is among the new groups that started in 2022 (photo above), they are next town in a village called Kibanggay in Lantapan. This is about 30 minutes from where we currently reside along with Pastor Rudil Sinan-a, who is one of our head pastors and is leading the study using the "He Wants You" material. They are maternal relatives of our dear Ate Ann-Ann Garciano, who is the ministry's accounting and admin personnel. Initially, the family expressed their desire late last year to hear God's Word, and finally on March 6 we were able to make a trip, together with some of our pastors and brethren, to meet this family for fellowship and conduct the first session. The teaching is being widely received by this group of 25, not counting children, and they have been faithfully attending the studies ever since. God's Word is also impacting the lives of their children (ages 12 and above), who are now also joining the youth group, here in the Lapoc church, every Saturday afternoon after their morning Bible study session at their home. That's one full day a week of listening and being ministered by God's Word!



The group in Sanggaya is another recent one. The studies here began when an attendee of the Kawilihan Bible Study group, in the San Miguel Mission Church, accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and wanted other family members in Sanggaya to hear the Truth and also be saved.

Last February 12, the pastoral team went to survey the area, and 2 weeks later, on February 26, the Bible Study began by Pastor Gabriel Sulatan of our Anlagan Mission Church. Pastor Gabriel together with Pastor Ian Payla

and Pastor Ronnie Hanginan, one of our head pastors, conduct the studies, also using the He Wants You material, every Saturday morning to about 20-30 people (some miss sessions due to farm work).

Sanggaya is a 'sitio' in Lirongan, about 2 villages away from Lapoc, but is located far from the highway. The small road becomes a slippery slope when it rains, which occurs often here in the afternoon, and that makes it quite difficult to pass.



Intalwas is an outreach of the Tagbak Mission Church. The brother-in-law of Pastor Rustom Hanyagan, who is the leading pastor in Tagbak, invited the church to preach God's Word to them and their family. Twenty people are attending the study every Friday at 8am, using the

"Paagi sa Kaluwasan" (Way to Salvation) Bible Study Material. Pastor Rustom and his trainee, Jirven, conduct the studies.

The Lantapan Bible Study Group is an answer to a long-time prayer-petition of our fellow Lapoc Missionary Team members, Wingwing and Hasel Loberanes. The first Bible group includes the immediate family members of Hasel as well as some aunts, uncles and cousins; there are about 20 of them. This group was formed in August of last year (2021) at Hasel's mom's house in Poblacion, Lantapan; about 45 minutes away from Lapoc. This group has now expanded to a second Bible Study group with Hasel's "barkada" (close friends) in Balila (near Poblacion) as of last January 2022 with an attendance of 6 souls, not counting the children. Alternating between themselves Pastor Rudil together with Pastor Yeng Hanginan conduct the He Wants You Bible Study every Friday 1pm for the group and 3pm for the second group.



Bible Study at Hasel's Mom's House. Hasel's Mom in yellow cardigan



Bible Study with Hasel's Friends in Balila



This Basak Bible study group are relatives of Pastor Dodong Inanod, it started in January (2022). At the beginning either, the wife, or the husband would attend. Now both, the husband and wife, are joyfully joining the study together on "Paagi sa Kaluwasan." Five couples and some children attend this study every Monday at 8am. Basak is the last baranggay of Talakag towards the south, and it's a 30-minute motorbike ride for Pastor Dodong and his wife who are coming from Tinaytayan Mission Church.

This new group (image on the right) formed last February 2022 in Tinaytayan are relatives of brethren from San Miguel Church. About 10 families attend the "Paagi sa Kaulwasan" Study every Saturday 2:30pm at brother Bindi Libogan's house. Pastor Dodong Inanod also does the teaching here.



This Bible study group (image on the left) in San Miguel was formed last January. About 15 souls attend the study every Monday at 4pm. Pastor Doydoy Aldirete and youth pastor Marjun Estan are conducting the study on "Paagi sa Kaulwasan."

This photo on the right was taken during a recent outreach of San Miguel Mission Church. What led to this event was the expressed desire of many unbelievers to hear God's Word. Since there was a large number of them, Pastor Doydoy, together with the Pastoral Team, organized this 2-day overnight seminar on "He Wants You." The event took place this past Feb 16-17 (2022), and many people attended (about 170) from the different "sitios" (a place in a village of a particular family group) of San Miguel and Tinaytayan villages.



The He Wants You Seminar Attendees last Feb 16-17, 2022 held at Lapoc Mission Church



San Miguel Mission Church

The San Miguel Mission Church is truly growing, there are 270 attendees from 120 families. Their facility is no longer spacious enough to accommodate them, thus, a temporary extension has been made. Please pray for them as they plan to expand their church building. Pray for provision and wisdom.



The new believers in their Church building



Taken on the first month that these new believers were listening to the teaching.

Fourth quarter of last year (2021), recent land owners in the Calapat area reached out to set a meeting with our leadership to collaborate in a possible Bible Study group gathering in their new land. During

site visit, only two workers and their wives were the ones who would have potentially attended the study. After schedules were set, the studies began with more than just 4 people, and, to God's glory, the group now has around 30 attendees. The land owners resolved to have an actual facility built for the group and with the help of our construction team under Pastor Ronnie a church building was built! They were previously meeting at a place that required the people to pass through a steep ground carved stairs; elderlies had a hard time going up and down these stairs. They are currently going through the He Wants You material every Friday at 9am. Pastor Dodong ang Pastor Jboy are conducting the studies.

About 205 youths are now attending our weekly Youth Ministry gatherings. They are from Lapoc, San Miguel, Tinaytayan, Tagbak, Mirayon, Anlagan and Kibanggay areas. We also have a new Youth Pastor, Marjun Estan, who along with his wife Angel, lead the ministry. Pastor Marjun and his wife met nearly 15 years ago as attendees of these gatherings.



Discipleship

Now that group gathering restrictions are a bit loose, the women's ministry leadership started to visit the sisters at the other churches, in the Lapoc region, since March. This endeavor is fondly called "agak" which in English means "to guide or to counsel." In this gathering, women are encouraged through God's Word, and after their session they break out into small groups for sharing and prayer; these women are able to pour out their thoughts, struggles and requests for prayers. The gatherings bring tears of hope and relief as they edify one another. This is now a regular activity of the church, as women are greatly blessed by such fellowship. At San Miguel, for example, agak is being done every 2nd Sunday of the month, and other schedules are being set among the other churches. Please pray for wisdom for the women leaders as they pursue this endeavor.



First "Agak" of the year at San Miguel Mission Church last March 13



2nd "Agak" of the year at Anlagan Mission Church last March 20



"Agak" at Anlagan Mission Church last May 1

A Bible-based personality development program called Flourish was launched on October 2021. It is a 9-session activity that aims to help women of all ages to grow, thrive, and blossom in their lives regardless of their age and circumstance. Nanah Linomhay and Lalin Abungan are now certified Flourish trainers as Flourish is an international program developed by Australian Missionaries in Vietnam which our fellow missionary Jane Lopez was trained at. The participants are blessed with every session and is truly helping them relate to themselves, family, and community as a daughter of Christ.



1st Batch of Flourishers, taken last October 2021



2nd Batch of Flourishers, taken last February 2022

The women leadership also pays a visit to Yayang Angga-on and Jessel Cole, the newest missionary wives in the field. Yayang and Jessel are assigned to the Kalanganan Mission Church in Baungon. The visit happens every other month to encourage these new missionaries who are far from their families, and also to study the book "Tagtun-an Hu Bag-o Ha Misyunera." A study developed by Amay Paul and Inay Debbie Howells together with the first missionary in the Lapoc region, Pastor Rudil Sinan-a. The husbands of the missionaries also listen on what's being taught in the book whenever they are available.



"Agak" at Kalanganan Mission Church (Baungon)

After a 2-year pause due to the pandemic, all the pastors in the regions of Dulangan, Rogongon, Balintad, Man-ai, Baungon and Lapoc were able resume and conduct their bi-annual pastor's meeting. The image below was taken during their first meeting this year at Lapoc Mission Church. In this gathering, pastors are able to report updates from their regions, discuss the ministry's direction, planning sessions, reminders, as well as encouraging one another. It was a 2-day overnight event, and we are grateful for the organizing team who made this possible including the volunteer chefs!



Elementary Public-School Ministry

Last month in March, we delivered a total of 861 Talaandig Youth Bibles and 137 Talaandig Adult Bibles across 10 Public Elementary Schools in our area, namely Basak, Tankulan, Lirongan, Miarrayon, Lapoc, San Miguel, Tinaytayan, Masimag, San Rafael, and Migpait. The school teachers each received a copy of the Adult Bible, and they will be the ones to distribute the Youth Bibles to their students, 414 5th graders, and 447 6th graders, as the Philippines is still currently in under "Modular Distance (Home) Learning" system.



Our Religious Instructors, Angel (pink), Marie (lavender) and Melissa (yellow) together with Sir Ramil and Ma'am Lolit of Lapoc Elementary School

About the same time also in March, our Religious Instructors, as we call them, which are female Bible teachers assigned to teach God's Word in every classroom on a weekly basis during school year throughout all 11 public schools in the region, have started their General Training with the "He Wants You" teaching material, in preparation for the upcoming "face to face" classroom teaching which are scheduled to resume this coming July/August 2022. They are training for one full day every month. Currently, there are about 37 trained RI's in Talakag Region. New RI's will also begin General Training soon, please pray for them as well.



We are very grateful to the Lord for what He has done and how He continues to use us. Doors continue to open for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be preached, and God's Word to go forth. His Spirit continues to move in these mountains. We are reminded that He is indeed with us, not forsaken and not abandoned, and that **His Word is living and powerful, and sharper than any double-edge sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit** (Hebrews 4:12).

Dayigon sa Magbabayà! Praise God! Sa Himayà hu Magbabayà! Glory be to God!

Together for Jesus,

The Lapoc Region Pastors and Missionaries