



Dipping Down Into the Water

The greatest joy in heaven is when a person accepts Christ as their Personal Savior. It is also the joy of my heart to see the individual dipping down into the water, symbolizing their commitment to walk with God in newness of life. I never miss attending a baptism in our district and I love singing, “All To Jesus I Surrender.”

This past January, Sawmill Church had an evangelistic crusade in our district beginning on the 1st and ending on the 30th. The last day, January 30th, was when they planned to have the baptisms.



Checkpoint

Several people from our village of Sagpangan as well as my bible students wanted to go to the baptism. Everyone was excited to go, but we had a problem. Just as the United States has social-distancing rules, so do we on our island. They have been very strict with us here. There were times when we were not allowed to travel to the main city for groceries, or even leave our village. It has been very difficult here.

On the day of the baptism we all squeezed into the mission truck and made our way down the highway. I knew of a road stop along the way, and knew they would not be happy with a truck full of people. Before we arrived at the checkpoint, I had half of the people off-load and wait while I took the first group through. I then returned with the empty truck to collect the waiting other half. Once through, I collected everyone and we drove off on our way. The guards did not seem to notice or care. God is good!

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

— Ephesians 6:10-13



A Sweet Surprise

They had a very unique program for Sabbath School. The children, many who walked more than 2 miles every night for the meetings, sang scripture songs. They sang 37 songs, and it took more than an hour with them standing there singing. It was very impressive. *(Editor's note: How many of us complain of a service going too long here in our country? Not to mention standing rather than sitting for over an hour!)*

In the afternoon I had a sweet surprise. Four of my Bible students decided to be baptized! They signed the baptismal questioner and were ready to go into the water. This was not a quick, off-handed decision. We have been studying with them for over a year now, and most nights they have been coming to our house for worship. I had not asked them to be baptized. I know they are young and at first their parents did not want them to be baptized. In the end, the parents agreed and gave their permission. That was the easy part. Now the hard part begins as they are

faced with going against some of the traditions of their families.

Please continue to pray for these dear souls that they will stand firm in the power that God supplies to them to stand with Him.

Thank you for your prayers and support that makes it possible for us to continue to reach souls for the Lord. We look forward to many more baptisms as the Holy Spirit touches hearts with the love of Jesus.

God bless you!

Edgar & Raylene Espinosa



**Your AWA Mission Family
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