

Dallas and I had the privilege of going to the Kagayanen New Testament dedication in the Philippines recently with a large group to celebrate the first New Testament completed by an African American who is also female, Jacqueline Huggins, in our life-time. Included in the trip were Dr. and Mrs. Tony Evans. Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship Church in Dallas Texas have been faithful supporters of Jacqueline for 25 years.

Here's a brief diary and summary of our time giving a few highlights. This was a wonderfully productive trip for us..

Friday, April 18

- Dr. Tony Evans' devotional message
  - o Based on Matthew 7:24-27.
  - o Dr. Evans described the wisdom in constructing a building on rock, and the foolishness of constructing it on sand.
  - o How much we read and store the Word in our hearts determines the growth in our lives.
  - o Dr. Evans made the point that the Word is foundational to our lives and that Bible translation is foundational to using and understanding the Word.
- Trip to Cagayancillo Island
  - o Dr. Evans and I took an afternoon trip to this island in the South China Sea, the 'heart land' of the Kagayanen people and where translators Jacqueline Huggins, Carol Pebley, and Scott and Louise McGregor (who launched the project) lived and worked for a number of years.
  - o It was a one hour plane flight...it was a 25 hour boat trip prior to aviation service.
  - o Dallas spent the afternoon with Mrs. Evans planning for several opportunities for Dallas to participate in leadership events hosted by Mrs. Evans.
- Pagpalangga Ministry Day
  - o Organized by Dahl Estrada of Sa Bawat Wika 2025 (the Pilipino expression of Vision 2025).
  - o Through the planning of these and other events, SBW was afforded the opportunity to engage with many local churches in Puerto Princesa City.

Saturday, April 19

- Kagayanen NT & Genesis Dedication

o Early on in the dedication ceremony, spontaneous dancing erupted in the building!

o Speakers included:

ü Pastor Jehu Cayaon (one of the mother-tongue translators)

ü The Honorable Edward S. Hagedorn, Mayor of PPC, was the primary host.

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward\\_S.\\_Hagedorn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_S._Hagedorn)

- [http://www.edwardhagedorn.net/?page\\_id=5](http://www.edwardhagedorn.net/?page_id=5)

- At the banquet he hosted (Sunday evening), the mayor described what he has done to transform the city into a major eco-tourism destination and model in environment protection. Puerto Princesa City became a Hall of Fame Awardee for being the cleanest and greenest component city in the Philippines. (In fact, throughout the city there are signs posted encouraging citizens to conserve water and resources.)

- He had a dramatic conversion experience that I am convince God did this for multiple reasons, including to make a safe base of operation for the Kagayanen Translation Team.

ü Dr. Tony Evans spoke.

ü I was able to greet those assembled.

ü The Honorable Jesli A. Lopus, Secretary of Education in the Philippines, and Chairman of the SIL Advisory Committee, spoke warmly of the work of SIL

- Secretary Lopus is a celebrated for elevating the Department of Education to the most efficient governmental department in the Philippines

- From the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Education in the Philippines came the following release about the Kagayanen NT:

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<http://www.deped.gov.ph/cpanel/uploads/issuanceImg/Kagayanen%20regain%20identity.pdf>

o Jacqueline, Carol, and Louise all presented copies of the Kagayanen NT & Genesis to individuals who were either directly involved in or were somehow connected to the translation project.

Sunday, April 20

\* Dallas and I had breakfast with Dr. and Mrs. Evans where they invited us to participate in the Annual Church Development Conference

in Dallas, TX sponsored by the Urban Alternative. Normally 600 pastors, mostly African American, attend. Dr. Evans proposes that Dallas and I attend, along with other colleagues from Wycliffe. He would like Jacqueline to speak, he will talk about his experience in the Philippines, and then endorse Wycliffe and Bible translation.

- o The website is being upgraded, but some basic information on the CDC is found at:

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- o <http://www.tonyevans.org/site/c.mkLUJ5MRKtH/b.2050109/k.BE6D/Home.htm>

- \* Most of us attended/spoke at local churches

- o Dallas and I attended the largest Pentecostal church in Puerto Princessa where I spoke in two morning services. I am told by the Lloyd Estrada that 12 people have committed to working in BT as a result of the morning. The pastor in Ancho Buenaventura.

- \* Wycliffe USA Evening Banquet

- o Purpose: Expose the remaining need for Bible Translation in the World...Vision 2025.

- o Ruth introduced the program by opening with Wycliffe's "passion statement."

- o Jo-Ann Richards (Ethnomusicologist from Jamaica) led the group in a worship song and later gave a short ethnomusicology presentation.

- o I walked the group through : worshipping God, translating His Word, for all peoples (e.g., what has already been done and the remaining need), and the different forms His Word can take (print, music & arts, audio, & visual).

- o Then talked about who can be involved (i.e., the Challenge).

- o We ended by singing Ancient Words.

Monday, April 21

- \* Final banquet: Praise, Prayer, and Testimony

- o John Roomes (Director of Wycliffe Caribbean) led the group through 3 questions and a number of people stood up to respond. Here is some of what was shared:

- o Pastor Rander Draper from San Antonio, TX. He and his church have supported Jacqueline from the first day they met year 25 years ago. Pastor Draper reflected on the importance of 'rededicating' the Bible in churches back home. The experience of the Kagayanen helps him understand the importance of celebrating the Scriptures.

- o Catherine Wharton (Caribbean) explained how this trip has solidified her decision to be a part of BT work.

o Marsha, Scott MacGregor's sister, his 90-year-old mother also attended, shared how overwhelming it was to step off the plane and be here for this event. She explained how Scott and Louise have been working on this for 34 years and how it's just overwhelming to now be here.

So we celebrated...we worshipped and we focused on the Glory of God...2,251 communities left to go! Someone challenged me the other day about the 'historic' nature of what we are participating in. I think we in American English we use the term for something that has historic significance; never happened before; something of unusual impact. I think the fact that the number of Bible translation needs is dropping for the first time in our history, and we are growing closer to having ALL language started, is historic in every sense of the word. You can find another name if you want, but this has never happened before. Be encouraged and excited about your contribution. Thank you for supporting me and Dallas for these 25 years!

BOB (and Dallas)