



# Dr. Roberto-Jose Livio

## Serving in the Republic of the Philippines IPM Regional Director to the Far East

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Dear Praying Partners,

What a privilege and joy to be preoccupied with things of eternity that time becomes a fleeting moment! By the time you read this, we would have officially entered the Lenten season. In light of local and global events affecting all of us, how appropriate are the inspired words of the apostle for us all: *“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed,”* Rom 13:11.

2022 ended with such great blessing through the diligent efforts of our choir to hold a mini-Christmas Cantata and make our commemoration of our Lord’s incarnation more memorable and meaningful. We were once again granted the opportunity to plant the gospel seed through the Anchor of Hope radio broadcast last Dec 24, <https://youtu.be/5re0XYuRTc4>. Praise the Lord!

2023 began with our regular worship service held on New Year’s Day. It was encouraging to see a good crowd of congregants come despite the holiday celebrations. On January 3, I had the privilege again to preach God’s Word to a group of Christians at the Capitol Christian Leaders’ Forum (right photo). These are lawyers, political leaders, government officials, pastors who gather weekly to uphold Judeo-Christian values amid our increasing secular culture. It was my opportunity to remind them of the vital role of leadership, the importance of a Biblical worldview and the necessity of proclaiming the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ *“who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father,”* Gal 1:4. While I praise the Lord for their heartwarming responses, please pray with me that the Spirit of God would work in their hearts to accomplish His purpose—whether that be the work of regeneration or the renewing of their mind through the process of sanctification.



Last Sunday, January 29, Pastor Erick Garcia (a fellow conference-committee member) and I had the gracious privilege to minister God’s Word to Berean Bible Baptist Church in Batac, Ilocos Norte (about an 8-hour drive north from Metro-Manila). The church’s under shepherd, Pastor James Pasion, has been a regular delegate of our annual Fundamental Bible Conferences and he invited us over to speak at their first missions conference which was held Monday, the following day. I was tasked to preach twice on the Lord’s Day and twice again the following day. That Sunday afternoon, there were over 150 people who came, two of whom served as Councilors in their local government. Left photo shows the overflow of people who had to find their seat outside of their designated sanctuary while I was preaching.

Monday, January 30, we had the opportunity to meet other fellow-pastors in their area. After the three messages they heard that day, we had a forum for Q&A to Scripturally address the current issues they were wrestling with. It was also an opportunity for our wives to get acquainted with theirs and be a blessing to them (right photo). We were so encouraged by their responses to the Word of God and their feedback so that these fellow-laborers started brainstorming of the idea of doing this again and, next time, to a broader audience and in a bigger venue. Tentative plans are being scheduled for January 2024. We ended the day having an ice cream snack after giving them copies of our New Testament Tagalog Translation, a book to read, and other



gifts. Furthermore, the man who drove us to Batac, Ilocos Sur (Andy Cruz) also trusted Christ as Savior by the time we drove back. What a blessing! To God be the glory, great things He hath done! Thank you for your prayers!

The man who graciously offered to lend us his van for this above-mentioned mission trip is Benny Balajadia. I have mentioned him before in previous prayer letters. He is a businessman, a new convert to Christ and is manifesting more evidences of his salvation and expressing more interest in the things of God. His wife (Amy), a Protestant ophthalmologist also has indicated that she is a born again Christian and has been very supportive of her husband's new found faith. She envisions herself as a Sunday School teacher and choir member someday. We have been in contact with them, and their children, to provide Biblical counsel. We have been able to establish rapport with them. Benny and Amy are burdened for their family, specifically their oldest 18-year-old granddaughter, Reign, who holds atheistic views (left photo of all three of them). They are praying we can start a local church in Baguio City and expand our ministries there, too. We certainly appreciate your prayers for God's leading on these open doors of ministry.



Here are a few more of our prayer requests:

1. Imee's irregular heartbeat rate remains a cause for concern. Thankful she remains up-and-about but continues to be closely monitored by her electro-physiologist. The doctor seems pleased of her responses to her medication. Appreciate your prayers for the Lord's intervention on this.
2. We are scheduled to guest, once again, at the Anchor of Hope Live Radio Broadcast on April 1, 15 and 22. What a privilege to plant the seed of God's Word and answer related questions via the airwaves! The broadcast hosts (Roger and Bel Espiritu, Chiqui Pablo and her husband Erwin with their two sons) have come to attend Foundation Baptist Church morning service last Feb 5 despite the distance from their homes. Please pray for their continued spiritual growth and that they would continue to attend as they had indicated.
3. Family Camp is scheduled on April 4-7 to be held at Baguio City. Please pray for a good turnout of campers, fine weather, logistical arrangements and the Lord's mighty working in the hearts of those who would receive His Word.
4. Spiritual fruit from our Resurrection Sunday Cantata on April 9.
5. We praise the Lord for His provision of \$20,000 for the reprinting of our Tagalog New Testament. May the Lord reciprocate the generosity of the anonymous donor to help us disseminate, not just the gospel, but an accurate translation of the New Testament in our vernacular. Our local committee has submitted our spotted typographical and punctuation errors to our consultant counterparts in Michigan to correct the text and get it printed in Missouri.
6. Please continue to pray for our church planting efforts in Puerto Princesa, Palawan and Baguio City — for believers there to continue in the Word.
7. Plans for a class module on Biblical Hermeneutics are on the works as requested by delegates who attended our recent conference. We are re-scheduling this, Lord willing, sometime in April. Please pray for wisdom in lesson preparations and logistical arrangements to train more *"faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also,"* 2 Tim 2:2.
8. Wisdom and strength to finish my Major Project this year.

Again, we cannot thank the Lord enough for you, your friendship and partnership in our ministries! May your welcoming committee of Filipinos in heaven increase as we labor together with God for the advancement of the cause of Christ and the gospel in anticipation of His imminent return!

Because of Calvary,



Rev. Roberto Jose Livioco, D.D.

P.S. Please send all contributions for our support to  
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