

# BERNALES FAMILY UPDATE

Serving the small congregation of the **Davao Covenant Reformed Church** in Davao City, Philippines  
**Our Home Address:** 527-A Mangga Street, Juna Subdivision, Matina 8000 Davao City, Philippines  
**Mobile Phone:** (63) 932-8585442; (63) 922-7182901; **Email address:** vicbernalesfamily@gmail.com

May 13, 2016

*Dear praying friends,*

***"Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens." ~ Psalm 89:1***

The Lord is so good in answering the prayers of His people. One lady who was Vic's radio program listener was led by God to attend our church. She persevered in attending risking some physical abuse from her unbelieving father. But God, in His mercy, changed the heart of her father. These past two months this young lady was no longer barred by her dad. She was even allowed to attend our Thursday prayer meetings. God is so good! We continue to pray for her entire family to come to God's saving knowledge.

Another interesting story pertains to two of the string orchestra members of a violin institute who were able to attend the Heidelberg Camp 2015. They are now regularly attending our church. When one of them asked permission from her old church that she is leaving for the reason that she cannot agree anymore with their "prosperity gospel," she faced persecution. It was a rough time but she stood fast. She will be attending the membership class starting this Sunday, along with six others. We praise God for how He works in the lives of these young believers. God is constantly leading people to visit us every Sunday.

Another exciting event that took place in our congregation was the New Testament Greek class with

Mr. Aure Tan Jr on March 29 to 31. There were 15 interested youth and adult who faithfully attended those three consecutive evening class in NT Greek. Mr. Tan also taught the gospel message from Paul's epistle to the Romans applying the lessons learned from the Greek grammar. Most of the students were grateful not only because they are now able to read the Scripture in Greek language but also for the clear gospel message that they've heard and learned from the class.

After going through several months of catechetical teaching with Vic and after appearing before our elders, five of our covenant youth made their public Profession of Faith on April 24. One of those youth is our third child, Roi. We are so happy that the Lord is faithful to his promises to our children – that He will be God to them and that He will save them, forgiving and cleansing them of their sin.

Our Bible study with the blind masseurs is now joined by other brethren who are not disabled. We continue to pray for God's wisdom in reaching out to those who have special needs in our city and community. We are planning to hold a special camp for these precious souls. It will be our first but we pray that our great God will enable us to help the neglected,



**Mr. Aure Tan Jr. teaching basic New Testament Greek to 15 interested students at church**



**Some of the members of the Wednesday morning Bible study group at Elder Allan Ostique's place**

the needy, and the marginalized in our society.

The final editing of the Cebuano translation of the Belgic Confession is on its way. Our elders – Ojie Bicaldo and Allan Ostique – helped in polishing and revising the initial translation. It is our goal and prayer that by the end of May or by the middle of June the final translation will be ready for publication. Please continue to pray for Mr. Adolfo Lapiz who is the person in-charge of the translation.



**The men who are involved in the translation of the Belgic Confession to Cebuano language – from left to right, Adolfo Lapiz, Pastor Vic Bernales, Elders Allan Ostique and Ojie Bicaldo**

We thank the Lord for the United Reformed congregations that sent us Psalter Hymnals – both used and new. Thank you so much for your willingness to share your resources with us. Your generosity has touched us deeply. Now the new congregations that are Reforming and are being organized in our denomination are savoring the joy of being able to sing the psalms and the great hymns of the Christian church. Thank you so much, Community United Reformed Church (Schererville, IN), First United Reformed Church (Chino, CA), and Cornerstone United Reformed Church (Hudsonville, MI) for your continued support and commitment to help spread the gospel of Christ and the Reformed faith overseas, particularly here in the Philippines.

This week our family is under one roof again! Our eldest, Yuri, is back from Wheaton College. Thirty pounds of weight gain fits him well! God is truly good. Our other children are celebrating the return of their big brother. Ysha keeps busy with orchestra and her graphic design class. Roi finished Grade 6 and graduated in April and his dream of becoming a zoologist is gaining ground. For more than a month now he has been volunteering at the Philippine Eagle Center to feed the eagles and other raptors and do some manual labor at the eagle sanctuary. Seth is just

simply happy with the simple joys of life. Cathy has finally taken a summer break from homeschooling. She keeps busy with the steady stream of women counselees and her hospitality ministry. She also accompanies Roi in his volunteering. Our family also hosts a weekly Bible study and prayer meeting at our place every Thursday night. We are joined regularly by six single ladies.



**Yuri is back home! His siblings are so happy to see him again.**

Kindly pray for Vic as he goes up north in San Carlos City, Pangasinan province next week to preach and hold a seminar-workshop at our sister church and another church plant in a neighboring city. May God give him the words to strengthen the old and new believers there! He is also set to speak at a youth camp there on July 1 to 4. He was asked to give a message on the Reformed perspective on Homosexuality. Kindly pray for his preparation.

We continue to praise the Lord for sustaining our family and the ministry here in the Philippines. Thank you so much for all your support, encouragement, and prayers over these years. Should you desire to send your financial support and/or check donation for us and our ministry, kindly send to:

**Covenant Reformed Church in San Diego**  
c/o Deacon Angel Lontoc  
1728 Sunny Crest Lane  
Bonita, CA 91902

Again, thank you so much for your partnership with us in the gospel ministry. May the Lord continue to provide all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus!

**Yours in the Lord's service,**

*The Bernales Family*

**(Vic, Cathy, Yuri, Ysha, Roi and Seth)**