

# PHILIPPINES NEWS FLASH

2 November 2018



Our inaugural trip to the Philippines came in the form of a multi-church conference for Worship. We met Pastor Elaine Woodage, the country's National Coordinator for RCCG, for the first time at the Holy Ghost Congress in Nigeria in 2012. Pastor Ade, the Missions Director for RCCG City of David in Lagos, helped to plant the church in the Philippines

and invited us to minister there. This is the first time that Vinesong has been there and also the first time the current team has ministered in South East Asia. Previously, one of the former teams ministered in Malaysia and Singapore. Our visit was very short, but we know that God has planted seeds of righteousness in Philippines and has united our ministry with the hearts of many Filipinos.

Our visit coincided with the 50th birthday celebration of Pastor Elaine and a surprise party was organised in her honour. Many of friends from near and far were present to celebrate her life. She has been dedicated to the Lord and planted many churches over the years in Singapore as well as in the Philippines.

Through her ministry, she has seen many people won for Christ including her own husband before they were married. RCCG City of David in the Philippines has spawned over 30 churches across the Philippines since its inception only 7 years ago.



She and her team have been tireless in winning souls for the Kingdom giving everything of themselves to the mission. The birthday party served as an encouragement for all of us that our lives must make a difference to those around us for God and, which goes without saying, for good.

For the conference, we learned a few songs in Tagalog (aka Filipino) which, along with English, helps to form the two official languages of the Philippines, a nation where over 120 languages exist. The event was well attended and we were blessed by the quality, purity and authenticity of their worship. There was such a powerful anointing and people were ministered to in a very deep way.

During this conference we also met husband and wife Rommel and Susan Guevarra, two widely acclaimed worship leaders in the Philippines. They are well known in Christian Filipino circles and teach and lead worship at different (mainly Filipino) churches around the world. Pastor Rommel spoke very well on worship, that everything we do is for an audience of one and that singing like an angel does not qualify you as a worshipper if you act like a monster in your own home. It is your life and your heart that matter most to God. Pastor John also spoke on purity in worship and narcissism in the church, and how these two cannot coincide with each other.

**“I am the LORD.  
That is my  
name. I will not  
give my glory to  
anyone else. ”**

*Isaiah 42:8*



Here is a short excerpt from John’s teaching at the conference.

“God was so good. He said, I gave you something from your childhood. Now use it. I thought that was amazing! I was not so great in school. But I remember my science teacher took a bean. You know a raw bean that you eat or cook? He took that bean and put it in wet cotton wool on the window sill and the strong sunshine was shining on that bean for three days and it grew a little plant. The Lord said do you remember how you were fascinated with that plant? Then my teacher took a prism. Do you remember a prism from school? A clear crystal prism. He put that plant in the same sunshine. When the sun hits that prism it makes a rainbow. And that’s what happens in worship. The worship leader... the pastor... you? We can become like a prism for God’s light. He gives pure white light and we think he needs our help. So we colour it with our own dreams and your own ideas. My teacher took that plant and put it under the light of that rainbow and guess what happened to that plant? It shrivelled up and died. God said that’s what’s happening to the church because of false worship. ”

We ministered at RCCG City of David Bacoor on Sunday morning. Ian and Joenah, the worship leaders, helped us to translate some of our songs into Tagalog for the short time we were in the country. Peachy, the administrator for RCCG Philippines and keyboardist in the worship team, worked with us before and during our visit to organise everything. It was such a pleasure to be with them. They expressed such love and worked together with such excellence. The presence of God and His anointing was evident that Sunday morning. We can't give God enough praise for the way He heals hearts and lives. Again this was evidenced by the people that came forward to give their lives to Jesus during the meeting.

On Sunday evening we ministered at Rommel and Susan Guevarra's church in Makati, Metro Manila where they are the senior Pastors. The Guevarra's had travelled for ministry that morning in a city 5 hours away and rushed back just in time to catch the end of our ministry. Again God did not disappoint. After we finished ministering, the missions Pastor who had been the moderator for the evening stood up and thanked us for our ministry, our dedication and prophesied over us in such a powerful and tremendous way. It was as if God was using him as his mouthpiece to encourage us to keep doing what we are doing blessing the nations and calling people to repentance through our ministry.

All in all, though this was only a very brief ministry visit, we know that seeds have been sown and if God wills, we will go back to minister in other provinces and islands as we see the Philippines set ablaze for Jesus. We want to thank God for the lives of all who worked



with us to make this time in the country a reality. Please remember the Philippines in your prayers. They are a nation of gentle, loving people who blessed us through their love and commitment to God and to us as a team. God has once again bound our hearts together tightly with more kings and queens in his Kingdom in a way that cannot be put into words. We are humbled and deeply grateful for God's love to us expressed by so many in ways both seen and unseen.

