



# PRAYER REQUESTS

An update from Bro. Stephen Thomas Gavilo

## MISSIONARY TO CALBAYOG CITY SAMAR, PHILIPPINES

**Dear Pastor and Faithful Partners in Christ,**

As I write this, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey the Lord has allowed me to walk these past few months. From November through January, my heart has been overwhelmed, not only by the many open doors to share the vision for Calbayog, Samar, but also by your constant prayers, kind messages, and generous support that lift me daily. Each of you is a part of this journey, and I want to thank you for standing with me.

**NOVEMBER** : This month was full of motion and mercy. I had the privilege of traveling around Florida, visiting churches and meeting faithful men and women of God. By His grace, four churches have now committed to monthly financial support, bringing me to **10%** of my goal. It might seem small in numbers, but for me, it's a huge testimony of God's hand at work.

One of the highlights of the month was being invited as a speaker at a Missions Conference, where I was warmly accommodated for five days. There, I had the opportunity to share not just my burden for souls, but the specific vision God placed in my heart for Calbayog. It was a humbling experience to be surrounded by churches that truly value global missions and whose encouragement helped renew my strength.

I also began prayerfully raising funds for a much-needed pre-owned church van. This van will serve as a vital tool for the ministry in the Philippines, allowing us to reach remote communities, pick up children and families for church, and carry gospel materials safely. It's a big need, but our God is bigger.

**DECEMBER** : December found me in Elizabethton, Tennessee, and to be honest, I had prepared myself for a quiet and perhaps lonely Christmas season. But God, in His sweet providence, surrounded me with people who made me feel like family. Multiple churches and families invited me into their homes and fellowships. I shared meals, joined in services, exchanged stories of God's faithfulness. Every moment reminded me that I'm never truly alone in the ministry. We serve a God who knows how to surprise us with joy.

- To have safe and secure travels.
- To stay healthy and have the needed funds to cover my deputation expenses.
  - To fill my schedule with meetings & mission conferences.
- To have 40 churches that could support the ministry in Samar.
- To be a blessing to every church I visit.
- To be an encouragement and to grow more in the ministry.
  - To preach God's Word with Boldness and Power.
  - To win more souls for Christ.

**NOVEMBER 2024**



**JANUARY 2025**

**CONTACT US** : [224] 566 5064 --- [stephenjdgavilo7@gmail.com](mailto:stephenjdgavilo7@gmail.com) --- Missionary Stephen Gavilo (Facebook)

**SENDING CHURCH** : Cornerstone Fundamental Baptist Church --- 1510-10 Emerald Village, Bataan Philippines

**SUPPORT ADDRESS** : HeartBEAT International Missions --- P.O. Box 1941 Elizabethton, Tennessee 37644-1941

It wasn't just about celebration; it was also a time of connection and evangelism. I got to know people on a deeper level. People with stories of hardship, faith, and God's grace; and I was reminded why this calling matters. I continually prayed that in every place, the Lord would use me to share the gospel with at least one soul. Some days, that prayer was answered through a church pulpit. Other times, it was through gospel tracts distribution.

The faithfulness I witnessed from the churches I visited this month deeply encouraged me. Their commitment to missions and love for the gospel stirred in me a stronger desire to press on toward the goal of winning souls for Christ.

**JANUARY** : As the new year began, so did a new set of challenges. Snowfall and bad weather conditions in some areas forced the cancellation of several church services and travel plans. At first, it was disheartening, but it became another opportunity to witness God's unchanging faithfulness.

Despite the setbacks, the Lord led me to unplanned fellowships, where I was able to join men's gatherings and missions conferences. I met fellow missionaries from around the world, and hearing their stories gave me a renewed sense of unity and courage. Some churches, though I wasn't scheduled to speak, invited me to share anyway. These unplanned moments became divine appointments.

And I'm excited to share this: by the end of January, eight churches have officially pledged monthly financial support, bringing me to **20%** of my goal. **To God be all the glory!** There's still much ground to cover. With 32 more churches to connect with in just a few months, I am trusting in His perfect timing and favor.



We are continuing to pray and believe for the provision of a pre-owned church van, with an estimated cost of **\$14,500 USD** (**₱800,000 PHP**). It's a step of faith, but one we are taking boldly, knowing it will be used fully for the Lord's work.

To those who pray and give, I can never say this enough: **thank you so much**. Thank you for your prayers, your support, your messages, your giving hearts. Whether you give financially, pray for me regularly, or simply share my story with others, you are a vital part of this mission. Your faithfulness makes it possible for me to go. Every ride, every meal, every open door, every soul reached is fruit added to your account.

God is working, sometimes in the background, sometimes in front, but always with purpose.

*With a grateful heart,*

**BRO. STEPHEN THOMAS GAVILO**

Your Missionary on Deputation to  
Calbayog City Samar, Philippines

**"LITTLE IS  
MUCH  
WHEN GOD  
IS IN IT."**

**CONTACT US** : [224] 566 5064 --- [stephenjdgavilo7@gmail.com](mailto:stephenjdgavilo7@gmail.com) --- Missionary Stephen Gavilo (Facebook)

**SENDING CHURCH** : Cornerstone Fundamental Baptist Church --- 1510-10 Emerald Village, Bataan Philippines

**SUPPORT ADDRESS** : HeartBEAT International Missions --- P.O. Box 1941 Elizabethton, Tennessee 37644-1941