January- February Feb. 6, 2026

Arrival and Settling in the Philippines

Greetings from the sunny Philippines! By God's grace, I flew from Seattle and arrived in the Philippines with my father on January 6th. My dad stayed with me for the first ten days before returning to the U.S. and then Mexico. He was a significant help as I began to settle in the country. We passed through immigration without any issues. However, upon arrival, the airline informed us that one of my suitcases was lost. The airline staff collected some information, but quickly dismissed me, causing me to doubt that I would ever see the suitcase again. To my surprise, after three days, the missing suitcase was finally delivered to our Airbnb. Although the delay was inconvenient, the Lord turned it into an opportunity for me to witness to Kori, the young lady who assisted me with a wheelchair at the airport. I praise the Lord for opening this door!

Finding a Home and Church Support

Pastor Reggie Aquino warmly welcomed us to the country and brought us to Orion, a town in the province of Bataan. I am currently working with Open Door Baptist Church – Orion, which is under the leadership of Pastor Ronnie Querubin. The Lord provided me with a beautiful, fully furnished house, after several days of searching. Pastor Querubin and the church family here played a crucial role in helping me find a home, and I am grateful for their support and kindness.

As I to adapt to these new surroundings, I am continuing to pray that the Lord will allow me to return to the Aeta villages soon to resume my work in Bible translation. For now, the focus is on making sure that the house accommodates my needs. I was sick for about ten days after arriving. We suspect that the water here was affecting me, and I purchased a Berkey water filter to help with this problem. I am grateful to the Lord that my health and energy are gradually returning these days!

My landlady, Mrs. Ramirez, is a Muslim woman from Mindanao, the second-largest island in the Philippines, she shared that she turned down an offer for nearly one hundred dollars more because she
trusts that Christians will take better care of her property. I praise the Lord for this testimony! She enjoys our conversations, especially as I speak with her in Tagalog, which is the most commonly spoken language here. She knows that I am a Baptist missionary and Bible translator, and we have already discussed the Lord together. Please join me in praying for the salvation of Mrs. Ramirez, and that the Lord would use her curiosity to open doors of sharing the gospel and ultimately lead her to salvation.

As I have mentioned previously, to move the Bible translation project forward, I need to learn two languages: Tagalog and Aeta-Magantsi. I use Tagalog for daily communication here on the island of Luzon, and Aeta-Magantsi for Bible translation itself.

After I arrived in the Philippines, the Lord allowed me to resume my Tagalog lessons. I shared the gospel with my tutor on January 27th! It is truly exciting to be able to present the gospel in Tagalog! It has been an incredible blessing to be able to speak this language. People here are very friendly because it is a part of their culture, but when they hear me speak in their own language, even if it is only a few words, they become even more welcoming. Often, I am greeted by a rapid stream of Tagalog phrases!

As I wait for further direction from the Lord, I am becoming more involved in the local church here. I am humbled that Pastor Ronnie Querubin invited me to teach a series of lessons to the young ladies, to help them strengthen their walk with God. Lord willing, I will teach my first lesson on Sunday, February 8th. On Saturdays, I am going soulwinning with the church family here. The Lord also gives me the opportunity to invite the young people from the church to my house for dinner and fellowship every Friday.

Outreach to the Aeta People

The Lord allowed me to meet with Pastor Allen Ramos, an Aeta pastor, at the annual Workers and Pastors' Conference held on January 12-13. As Pastor Allen does not speak English, our conversation was entirely in Tagalog. Pastor Allen serves in three villages located on the edge of the crater of Mount Pinatubo! This is the heart of the Aetas' ancestral land.
The more remote the Aeta villages are, the purer their language is, as it is harder to be influenced by the outside world.
This is very helpful especially when looking for the appropriate Aeta-Magantsi to translate the difficult-to-translate Biblical words. Pastor Allen kindly gave me an old hymnal in Aeta, which will be a great resource for my language study. I hope to

arrange trips to Pastor Allen's villages and some others beginning in February. However, as a foreigner, to enter Mount Pinatubo I must first obtain special permission from the Filipino military, as well as an invitation from the Aetas themselves.

Current Projects

My first project here was creating a simple gospel booklet in Tagalog. I was able to finish the booklet several days ago, and we printed it at church on February 4th. We hope to use the booklet for soulwinning and the weekly children's "Good News Clubs" on Saturdays. At the same time, the Lord also allowed me to develop a new tract in Tagalog, as the ones available to the church do not clearly present the gospel. In the future, I plan to translate both the booklet and the tract into Aeta Magantsi. Lord willing, we will also be able to translate a Gospel cartoon into Tagalog.

Looking Ahead

On February 16, I will travel to Manila for a medical check-up and a meeting with Pastor Luis Ramos. He is the Pastor of the Bible Baptist Church in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, and Global Bible Translators is a ministry of his church. He is seeking to partner with Filipino ministries to establish a translators' school in the Philippines to train local bible translators so that many Southeast Asians can also have the Word of God in their own languages. I have been asked to assist in this project, laying the groundwork for the translators' school and teaching classes once the school is launched, which is tentatively planned for 2027. Lord willing, I will be able to help to move this project forward.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support, may the Lord continue to bless you all richly as you continue in His work!

Working for His Word,

Faith Duke

Prayer Requests:

1. Please continue to pray that the Lord will lead and direct my steps. I am deeply aware of my dependence on Him, but also excited to see what He will do.
2. Reopening of doors to the Aeta villages
3. Permission from the Philippine government
4. The salvation of my landlady
5. My health





