



IMM – Philippines Trip, September 2009

In late September, Peter Robertson and Bob Baska from the International Miners Mission went to the southern Philippines to run a missions/evangelism training conference. IMM's method of ministry is to train and support nationals to reach their countrymen with the gospel.

Peter and Bob were there primarily to train the 6 IMM supported evangelists, but ended up providing training for over 60 pastors who run churches in remote mining areas. Most of these pastors had boated in from the surrounding islands of Palawan, Mindanao and the Visayas. The aim for the week? To conduct a workshop on evangelism, to encourage these local based soul winners, and to preach the Gospel as the opportunity presented.



The conference was held at the premises of GSCM (God's Sufficient Grace Ministries), led by Bishop Dr Joy Bendoy. Bishop Bendoy has worked to establish an extensive network of evangelical pastors and churches throughout the Philippines. This network makes it easier to bring evangelism training and support to these remotely located pastors— some pastors have been on rickety boats on swollen seas of 12-15 hours to come to this event! And because Bishop Bendoy's church is active in the local community, it has gained favour with the local village chiefs and civil leadership – even the local police have called Bishop Bendoy to organise weekly Bible studies for the officers. One of his current projects is constructing a new church. Under his leadership, an orphanage and a Christian school are now opening. Praise God for his generosity, and the way that God is opening hearts and minds in the Philippines through Bishop Bendoy's work.



Bob conducted the Evangelism Clinic, which was grace based and Christ centred. Many of the pastors who gathered to take part in the workshop were from the southern Philippine Islands where radical Islam had taken root. These pastors loved the fellowship and training so much that Bob and Peter were only allowed to leave once they had promised to return and do it all again! The hunger for the word, and for Christian fellowship is evident.

Peter had several preaching opportunities – several at the conference, and two in local factories. The people were very responsive, with many responding to the gospel call by raising their hands to indicate they wanted to receive Jesus into their hearts. In some meetings, Peter says “it was like God came down and there was conviction.”



The conference was due to run until the Friday, but the organisers gave Peter and Bob notice that there was a typhoon coming in, and the pastors needed to get back home. Above all the training trip was an overwhelming success, with encouragement and fellowship inspiring the pastors for their work back on their islands with their local communities.



Above L – R: Ps Jupiter Sevilla, Ps Paul Bental, Ps ‘Buddy’ Espante, Evangelism/Missions Trainer Br Bob Basks, Bishop Dr Joy Bendoy (IMM Adviser), Br Peter Robertson (IMM Aus), Br Andres Gonzales, Ps Wenceslao Manila and Ps ‘Domie’ Elcante .