



Dear family and friends,

Last year, I had the privilege of leading a mission team to the Philippines to support one of our church's missionaries there. This March our team will be returning to continue assisting the ministries of our church-planter. Many of you committed to pray for that trip and I'm writing to tell you about my upcoming trip in the hopes that you will again partner with me by *committing to pray for me and my team*.

Over two weeks (March 23—April 7), we want to accomplish three things. First, our main focus will be preaching and teaching God's word. This part of our trip will we aimed at both evangelism of the lost and the encouragement of local believers. We will be preaching at various venues including public schools (very different from here in the US!), church revival services, police station chapel services, Sunday morning church services, and mid-week Bible studies. Last year, I taught 27 times over 13 days—it was amazing!

Second, we've been asked to again provide training for a pastor's conference. Many pastors have only basic training and we hope to not only deepen their love for God and their appreciation for his Word, but give them some practical resources to help further their ministries. The Gospel Coalition's International Outreach division has a program for countries experiencing "theological famine"—a lack of theological training and resources. What we have in abundance here many are lacking elsewhere. This results in discouraged pastors and weak churches. So, we're taking over 165 lbs of books to distribute to pastors and church leaders. These books were donated by generous publishers. We just need to find room for them in our bags!

Finally, we want to encourage our partners and their families. Though sometimes an under-appreciated part of missions, it's important to let our partners know that we value them and the work that they are doing. We hope to provide resources and fellowship that will encourage them toward continued faithfulness in their lives and ministries.

I've attached a simplified schedule of our activities and suggested directions for prayer, along with Scripture references to aid in your prayers. In addition to these specifics, please pray for our team. I will be accompanied by the same men who went with me last year—Doug Brubaker and Jason Skidmore. Pray that our team will be unified and enjoy fellowship on this trip (Rom 15:5). Pray that we will stay close to God and fight for holiness (Rom 8:12-15). Pray that we enjoy safety in travel so we can maximize our time for ministry (3 John 2). Finally, pray that we can build up our local partners and encourage them in the faith and their ministry (Col 4:8).

Thank you for being a part of this trip through your prayers. During our time in the Philippines, we aim to bring glory to Christ as we seek to help make disciples of all nations.

Blessings,

John Botkin

Preaching Pastor, Crossway Christian Church

PHILLIPINES 2014 PRAYER GUIDE

This prayer guide is for Crossway Christian Church's March/April 2014 mission trip to the Philippines. This mission team consists of John Botkin, Doug Brubaker, and Jason Skidmore.

On this trip, we have three main ministry goals: 1) preaching and teaching God's word in various settings for evangelism and encouragement, 2) encouraging the local pastors, and 3) ministering directly to our church-planters, providing resources and fellowship that will encourage them toward continued faithfulness. Here is a simplified schedule of our activities and some suggestions for prayer, along with some Scripture passages to aid you in your intercession:

March 23-24: Travel to the Philippines and Settling into the Culture. Our flight will take approximately 19 hours to complete with only one stop in Japan. Pray that we trust in God's grace, wisdom, and sovereignty, taking every opportunity to share Christ with those around us (Acts 17:26-27; Rom 1:16). Pray that we would get the rest we need as we begin to get in step with the culture in which we will be serving (1 Cor 9:21-23).

March 25-26. Evangelism at school graduations will kick off our trip. Please pray that as we present the gospel of Christ we will have boldness (Eph 6:19-20), clarity (Col 4:3-4), and integrity (2 Cor 4:1-2). Pray that God will open blind eyes to the glory of Christ, giving salvation to many (2 Cor 4:3-6).

March 27-31: Preaching at Government Services. God has opened a door for us to speak to local government officials as well as to local police officers. Pray that these would be fruitful times of ministry as we seek to not only pray for them but present the gospel as God directs (1 Tim 2:1-7). *Pray especially for Doug as he joins us on the field on March 28.*

March 27-April 6: Preaching at Local Churches. We will be preaching at least ten times at local churches as part of their revival services. We will also be preaching and fellowshiping with a church celebrating their 1st anniversary. Jason will also be singing during many of these services. Pray for his voice. And pray that God's people will be grown deeper in their faith and conformity to Christ through our ministry (Rom 8:29).

April 4-7: Preaching at Various Locations. During these days, we will probably have various "spontaneous" opportunities to meet with people, stop in at local churches, or visit with groups of young people. These will be times to get to know people and present God's Word—both formally and informally. Please pray that we will rightly discern the needs of these various groups (1 Thess 5:14). John has also been asked to preach at a wedding on April 4. *Finally, pray especially for Jason as he travels home on April 24.*

April 7: Travel to the United States. Our flight back will be about the same length as before, but because of the direction of our flight, we will arrive on the same day that we leave. Pray that we are able to rest on the flight home to make reentry easier for us and our families. As before, pray we trust in God's grace, wisdom, and sovereignty, taking every opportunity to share Christ with those around us (Acts 17:26-27; Rom 1:16).

In addition to these specifics, please pray generally for our team to **be unified and enjoy fellowship** on this trip (Rom 15:5). Pray that we will stay close to God and fight for **holiness** (Rom 8:12-15). Pray that we enjoy **safety** in travel so we can maximize our time for ministry (3 John 2). Finally, pray that we can build up our local partners and **encourage** them in the faith and their ministry (Col 4:8).

Thank you for supporting us and our trip with your prayers. We desire to bring glory to Christ as we seek to make disciples of all nations.