

Calboyog to Cebu

5 AM:

All ready to go. Lord lead and guide 6: 15 AM : Had my washing restored clean and fresh. Talked with William and Vianney about their willingness to go alone on Wednesday as it is to far to return in one day. They were shocked but willing.

I paid 750 Pesos for the taxi. The van they use as a taxi is very old. There are no seat belts, the tires are bald on the front. We set off at 9 On a bike no crash helmets Saw Caribou, pigs water buffalo, beautiful birds. Dust clouds on motorbike. No toilets on route no toilet paper. Good road for Samar Filipino people sleep on every occasion so the I am the only one who is awake. Vianney bought gas burner especially for the journey,

Cantacum 7 30, The road is broken up. Dogs are wandering in the road they have no road sense. No emission test so clouds of filth black smoke pollutes the air as we travel. 9.15AM we have arrived in Calbaygon.

ETA was perfectly right 10.40.AM. The heavens opened as we transferred onto a motorbike and even then I was getting wet and struggling to hold my bag. It seemed a long way out of the city. We turned off the road onto a muddy but rocky track and soon the vertebra was protesting. It was tough going.

Eventually we turned onto a cement road and came upon another seemingly derelict building, this it seemed was our destination. It was teeming down with rain and Vianney tried to protect me with her umbrella but the problem was not rain overhead but underfoot

It was flash flood conditions with rivers of water on the move. My inadequate footwear sandals were underwater again but we made it without slipping over to the foyer. It was deserted. Two police record books lay ready for any stranger to view. Vianney called out Maopie? Hello in Warey Warey. No reply and a search led to none. Where are the guards? Vianney set off to find them returning somewhat wetter to tell me they were having their meal.. We have to wait 15 while they finished their meal. While we waited I enquired of the toilet, this was soon located behind the office and was as usual very basic with a dustbin full of water and a jug to flush with.

After a good ten minutes wait I said why are we waiting? Vianney asked and obtained permission for us to run the gauntlet over the quagmire of mud and ponds of water.. it was truly flash flood conditions. We entered a large dark corridor the place filthy and smelly. Urrgg

The jail itself consisted with six cells off a wide corridor three cells each side. The place was dark and oppressive with heat. One prisoner was in the corridor smoking and when I entered he withdrew into a cell and closed the door. There were around ten men in each cell. The prisoners listened attentively to every word as I walked up and down to catch their eyes. They responded eagerly praying a sinners prayer and by raising their hands. It was very real, they were sincere and I believe the Lord had indeed touched their hearts. Before I left there were warm handshakes and smiles, they were obviously grateful.

Outside we ran the gauntlet of the rivers but it was too no avail we got very wet. William had been talking to the driver and they had rigged up some side protection for me out of some old yellow plastic bags. I got in grateful for some protection and we returned bumping along to the road. My back was hurting and I had to keep moving my position on the hard seat and lifting my self off when I spotted a pot hole , which was frequent.

We entered the town again and suddenly I realised that we were leaving the outskirts that had entered only an hour before. I asked William How far is it?. Not far After another ten minutes were still traveling

and suddenly I realised that we had passed the prison as we entered Calbayog. William why did we pass this prison? I was shocked beyond words. We had become shuttlecocks criss crossing the town wasting time and money. William tried to make some excuse that there was no way we could have got into town but really this was rubbish. Soon however we arrived and were welcomed into a large corridor three times as long as usual. It was crowded and folk were standing around women children men smoking cell doors open. It was a revelation.

I walked down to view the most crowded of the ten cells. These six were full of young men each cell with over ten men. The Lord greatly helped me with the Word. Rev 12 v 11... They overcame him..... The Lord anointed me with power and the Word had great effect with almost 100 % response Amazing and wonderful. Truly the Lord was at work. I took photos and one of two young boys. Why are children in prison I wonder?

3,30PM. Returning to the town by motorbike we stopped at the terminal to be told that the last connection to Catbalogan had left and there would be no more that day.

There was consternation and confusion until I decided to go to the bus station. As we set off a bus went by that way was destined for Taliban City and we encouraged our motorbike driver to catch him up (a little hair raising) but it worked. We boarded in a rush and the bone rattler took off...

Later

The bus has broken down, Lord your help is needed, Its 5,10pm its pouring buckets. I am in Catbalogan again. I have decided enough is enough. The haphazard arrangements made by Lerion's are too much, I decided to terminate this charade and head back to Tacloban City tonight. The constant traveling back and forth is too wearing on us all and I cannot preach continually being tired.

William did not seem to be perturbed when we arrived back in Catbalogan. Vianney was upset and was praying... We turned out of the old wreck and boarded an air con cab. It took ages before we set off in the dark and eventually the Lord got me back to Tacloban City. I was planning maybe to go to LNU but I realised that there was a hotel right beside me so I entered and booked a single room for 625 Pesos. When I accepted the room I was given a discount and got the room for P500.

Amazing. Having eaten nothing but a few biscuits all day I ordered an American breakfast and enjoyed it although it was very meager. But for P100 what do you expect. Now having caught up with my journal for today I am going to try the shower. I think maybe 150 souls were saved today. Who can know only God. I cannot quantify what he has done in men's hearts but I do expect to see fruit. All glory to God..

Tuesday 5th October I must send an email for Matthews birthday. Perhaps do some shopping before going on to Ormoc?. Lord thy will be done.

My room is small but adequate with hot water and clean sheets. Certainly fine for P5000 a night I am looking forward to my breakfast asked William to drop my case in at ten o'clock. Now Lord guide me to Cebu and prisons there. Thy will be done.

Later. Waked around but no sign of airline Took pedibike. No flights to Cebu. So I went to internet cafe sent Matthew his first email for birthday greetings. Sent to Sheila and Günter also Martin Tuson... Diana has had problem contacting Pastor Ruben. Bought cornflakes and milk. Now to get to Ormoc. I may fly home early if no prison Ministry.. Lord thy will. So ready to go.

10. 30AM I talked over with LER no progress made said goodbye 11.15. Waiting in Duopoint terminal paid. Bought a paper p25 p200 100 each. Drv & just Lord lead and guide in Jesus name. 110PM Making progress. A little detour. I 40 PM..I arrived safely having witnessed the torrents of rain gushing across the mountain roads The rivers were powerfully angry with awesome ferocity tearing away anything in its paths. I missed photo opportunities as the buses and lorries set up huge waves which hit us with such

force the van shuddered.. Amazing and still it rained.. Now I am in a beautiful room with air conditioning coffee at the ready and a hot shower awaiting me. I enjoyed a cup a soup and coffee and plan to go out to shop for Matthews present and dear Joseph.

Lord lead and guide..

Later 4 PM Just returned from shopping. The hotel taxi took me to the shopping center. I managed to get Joseph a jet plane and Matthew a clock... I bought some grapes and some Kit Kat Yummy I went down to order omelet and double French fries, I have tidied my case. Mmnn the omelet was lovely PTL I asked for and got double chips .Fantastic. Obtained more coffee for tonight. Walked to swimming pool its still raining. 6,40PM. Later. Had a lovely omelet and chips. They made an effort and got me another plateful It was a proper meal.

Wednesday 6th October 04

Villa Ormoc Hotel

6AM Awake refreshed after my rest. Feeling much better after arduous ministry and travel. It is not raining. PTL.

8 45 AM Swimming in half an hour Its not too hot but at least it is dry.. Then a walk up to town.

Later 4 PM It was dry as I walked into town and not too hot Bought shopping and some goodies. Two dunkie doughnuts.

Checked emails . Let Sheila know that I am moving tomorrow. Arthur and Mary want to give Dinah \$50 so I will give it to her.

I have enough money changed to see me through at Cesario Hotel at 11,000 a night. PTL

Praise God I got my records back. Hallelujah

1 returned to swim again the sun peeped out for a while. .

Now torrential rain and high wind. Lord !!! So I pray for a smooth crossing tomorrow.. Watching the presidential speech in America...

Later 6.45 PM So I am ready for the off tomorrow. I sorted out my case and am looking forward to be on the move. I remembered Sheila's gift in the bottom of my case. I am so grateful for this hotel Villa Ormoc has been a blessing and the Lord's provision for my rest.

Thursday 7th October 2004.

Slept well Up at 6 am. Going down for breakfast check out at 7.30 am. Lord lead and guide. Thanks be to God which always causeth us to triumph in Christ Jesus.

Later. 7 25AM I am sitting in the waiting departure lounge of Super Cat Ferry. Lord lead and guide keep us safe in Jesus name.

Later..

The noise levels here are dreadful.

10,30AM. A. pretty rough sea but the boat is coping well. Now coming into Cebu. ETA maybe 11AM.

TAXI 250. Went to bank Money gone.

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Booked in the Cesario hotel for 3400 Pesos but found the room dismal and worse smelly of bad drains and damp. I decided to upgrade to the Belavista. for £22 pounds a night as no other rooms are available. I hailed a cab and went to the internet where I heard from Gary about Matthews birthday cake but saw no photograph, and then did some shopping. Marvelous I was able to buy a French stick some cheese and tomatoes water 428 then 50 for cinnamon bun. Taxies were 40 each way 80.

After a complimentary welcome coffee when I borrowed a knife to cut my roll, (I met a couple from Ormoc swimming pool) then I went up to the roof for swimming. It was lovely The timing was perfect because soon it came on to rain.. Back to my room and worked out my money . 100 P for Dinah and 50P for Pastor Ruben

I managed to get through to Pastor Ruben who is coming at 4PM, he seemed very pleased. Lord reveal your will. ..So a lovely quiet has descended on me and the blessing of God for obedience. It is now three PM so I will rest for an hour. Lord thy will be done.

Belavista.room 319

Later.

Met Pastor Ruben and Pastor Rolly. Arranged to meet at 9 AM tomorrow to go to municipal jail then another jail in the afternoon I telephone Dinah and made arrangements to meet her at 10 AM on Saturday morning. I liked Pastor Rolly he translated English well and has a good testimony. I am invited to speak on Sunday AM..