

Dear Friends and Partners in the Isnag Ministry,
I returned from the village yesterday. Thank you very much for praying. Read on
to see how the Lord answered your prayers.

We had a very meaningful Holy Week celebration. In addition to our worship service, we had Bible studies on Friday morning, and a film (“Risen!”) showing on Saturday evening, and then celebrated Easter on Sunday.

There were about 300-350 people who came from different villages in Apayao (the province) who attended the celebration. Some came as far as a day’s walk. They came from **8 different villages and towns**. Those who came from far places stayed in Dibagat for the whole three days. They heard the gospel three times that week. We fed all the people for lunch on Friday and on Easter Sunday. **The Lord provided all that the Church needs for the celebration. Praise the Lord for His generosity.**

God gave me the passages from which to share God’s messages to the people. Thank you for praying. On April 9, He gave me Luke 19:29-44. On Friday He gave me Luke 23:38-43. On Easter Sunday, He gave me I Thessalonians 4:13-18. The message of the gospel was fully covered; Christ suffered for our sins, he died on the cross, he was buried, on the third day he resurrected. He will come again to take those who believe in Him, and be with Him forever and ever!

On April 11, I had a little health concern. I felt some of the signs I usually feel before I have vertigo. I did not have enough medicine for it with me. **But through your prayers, God delivered me from it, and He gave me strength the whole time I was in the village.**

Through your prayers, the Lord used the pastors in their Bible study groups. During our testimony time, many shared what they learned from the Bible Study. We studied Matthew chapter 28, and we answered the question, “Who actually crucified Jesus Christ?” **During our testimony time, one of the elders who have been coming to Church for many years now stood up and said, “I learned from our Bible study that Jesus Christ was crucified for MY sins!”** Many others said the same thing! It surprised me, because all along I thought all these people already knew that. I have been preaching it every time I stood in front of them. But I realized it is only now that **it finally “hit home,” and it became personal to them. Praise the Lord!**

The celebration which started on Friday and ended on Sunday went very smoothly. We were indeed surrounded by God’s almighty hand, and He protected us from the

enemy. We did not have any problem whatsoever. Praise the Lord! The Lord God was glorified in all our activities.

There was a very noticeable cooperation and harmony among the believers. One by one, young and old, they passed by my house bringing firewood, vegetables, and big leaves for wrapping lunch. Some came in groups to clean the Church, arrange the pews, and decorate the Church. Some came early in the week to pound rice, and on Thursday evening and Saturday evening others came to cooked lunch for the following day. Even those who don't regularly come to Church came to help. They all worked harmoniously without supervision. They all know what to do, and they helped unselfishly. Some had very little sleep on Saturday night, when they worked together preparing food for Easter lunch. **The Church members all pitched in to do the work that need to be done to make the occasion pleasing to God. Praise God for such cooperation and harmony!** It was because you prayed.

There were three people who made commitments to the Lord this time. One was a three-times-a-year church goer. Praise the Lord for these three people. It was encouraging to see some of those who committed their lives to the Lord last year continue on with their faith. The pastors reported to me that they come regular to Church now, and some of them love to sit near the front.

That's how God answered your prayers! Thank you very much for praying.
Joyfully serving the Lord Jesus Christ in partnership with you,
Rudy Barlaan