

BERNALES FAMILY UPDATE

Serving the congregation of the [Davao Covenant Reformed Church](#) in Davao City, Philippines

Dear praying friends,

January 2023 marks the 23rd year of our Reformed congregation here in Davao City. We started with four families meeting in a classroom at an international mission school not far from the downtown area. In the providence of God, there are around 60 members composed of 18 families and single young professionals. We also have regular visitors in church. A few of them are already going through our new members' class.



[The congregation at our 2022 Christmas Party](#)

For many years, Vic has been working with three other church officers (two elders and one deacon). These past few years the Lord has sent several men in the congregation who are qualified and willing to serve as church officers. Vic started to train them and after two years of going through our Reformed doctrines and church government, our church was able to elect, ordain and install four new church officers (two elders and two deacons). Lord willing, another elder and deacon will be ordained this month. Vic continues to teach and train these men, together with a few others, in the doctrines and polity of the church.

Beginning January 2022, we were also able to worship in our new church building. The Lord has provided for us the fund to purchase a piece of lot (originally a 100 square-meter lot) on which we were able to start constructing the new building.



[The new church building](#)

We praise the Lord because in the middle of 2022, we were able to purchase an adjacent lot (another 100 square meters), making the total land area of the church property to 200 square meters. We are now starting to expand our church building in order to accommodate the growing number of our members and visitors.

Vic also continues to serve the denomination by teaching our ministerial candidates through the seminary-level program in partnership with Heidelberg Theological Seminary of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He also helps train our church officers in the denomination through an online Officers' Training every week. This January 2023, he again was elected as the secretary or the stated clerk of the Classis. He's been serving the denomination in this capacity for 15 years.

Please continue to pray for us and our ministry here in the Philippines. We appreciate your faithful support and encouragement to us as we serve the Lord's church in the Philippines.

Gratefully yours,

Vic and Cathy Bernales (with Yuri, Ysha, Roi, & Seth)