

## **2019 In Review and the Road Ahead**

**Following the Call...By His Grace**

**Roland and Faylene Beard**

### **Summary of 2019**

We spent the majority of 2019 at the Institute for Foundational Learning (IFL) in the Laguna, Philippines, where we have semi-permanent quarters across from the director (and our friend, Pat Capwell). Our US home time (about five months total) was spent physically moving from Virginia to West Virginia in the Spring and getting settled in November and early December. We are finally down to one small cabin and some on-site storage on the same property as a daughter and son-in-law near Huttonsville WV.

CHRISTWORKS MINISTRIES (CWM) remains a Virginia-based non-profit organization. Our other board members live in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia and continue to be an encouragement and help to us. The ministry address is at Ron Hardy's home in Fishersville; he is the primary representative for the ministry to the state of Virginia.

Our work in the Philippines continues to dominate our activity. We continue to write curriculum on biblical creation and have a pastoral function with several IFL children (mostly orphans) and try to encourage the staff. About a dozen children and as many staff are close to us, frequent our quarters, and stay in our hearts – even when we are stateside.

### **The Biblical Creation Curriculum (BCC)**

The second edition of BCC is now published and comprises the 4-quarter high school-level version of the original Bible study. IFL printed about 1100 copies in the first printing, and it is in the classrooms of several schools. We finished one-day training for the curriculum in several provinces for about 200 teachers. A one-week training was done for a school in Manila. Two papers on or related to the BCC were presented at the October teacher's convention for IFL schools. IFL's intention is to have the curriculum in over 200 schools during 2020.

A thorough edit for the second edition of the curriculum was just completed by our friend, Dr. Carl Wieland. His suggestions will be reviewed and incorporated in both future IFL printings and the original files that will become the second edition for future publishing outside of IFL schools and communities.

Preliminary planning for the Third Edition (for elementary level at the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade levels) is underway that will be tentatively ready for printing in the Philippines in 12 to 18 months. The development and writing process will begin in early 2020.

### **Video Training Project for BCC**

Discussions and planning for video training for the BCC during 2019 have progressed. Without a team of people to train others, we will have to rely on video with local language subtitles to introduce and train teachers when they cannot come to our IFL home base. The founders of another ministry in Indiana gave us the equipment necessary to begin video work in November. The videos will provide some preliminary relevance talks about biblical creation fundamentals and short videos that can accompany each of the four major quarters of the BCC (second edition for high school level). A YouTube channel is established to handle uploads of the videos when they are done.

## **The Road Ahead**

We have too much work to do and too little time to do it, but our plan is to make as much progress as we can in this order:

1. **Finish the editorial changes for the BCC (IFL/Philippine Second Printing and original files).** We hope to have this completed in January (2020). When this action is complete, we can forward a physical copy of changes to IFL, and we will have updated soft copy files that we can use elsewhere.
2. **Break out the video equipment and attempt to video a short relevance talk, load it to a YouTube channel especially made for the video training, and work out the kinks in the video process.** The area is totally new to us, and we are doing the work without much assistance. We hope to have the first video completed early in 2020. With this completed, we can more reasonably plan our next steps to video training for the major sections of the curriculum.
3. **Begin the planning and preliminary writing for sections of the elementary edition of the BCC (third edition).** This task involves a series of steps that will comprise most of the rest of our work time for most of 2020.

## **The Challenges in the Road Ahead**

While our board members are active in support functions, it is a staff of two (Roland and Faylene) for writing, illustrating, learning video procedures, and investigating means of publishing outside the IFL schools/communities in the Philippines. We need a team to help us but have none. Each of these functions, other than the writing, requires sets of decisions and actions that we are having a hard time getting our heads around. Ideas are suggested, but each of them requires a series of actions to investigate. We will, because we know we are called to the task, knock them out one or two at a time, but the process is not short. We are looking for believers of like minds to assist us in the tasks ahead.

Teacher reactions to training and contact with a few pastors tell us that many adults are in as much need for the BCC as the children for whom it is written. After all, the BCC in any of its forms is oriented to help children know who they are, where they come from, and why they need Jesus Christ. However, training and discussions have revealed that the fundamentals of Genesis (the creation, the fall of man, and why we need Jesus from what happened at the beginning chapters of the book) have often been compromised, ignored, or not understood by

much of the church. The short training that we conducted on the last two trips is not sufficient to help teachers process the changes from a naturalistic/evolutionary world view to a view that agrees with the Bible. While we purpose to do more, arranging those opportunities is beyond our control. We will respond to open doors, but they have been limited. At the same time, we are observing changes both in the US and in the Philippines that are increasingly anti-biblical, including opposition to Genesis fundamentals that make up the framework for the Gospel. The bottom line is simple: we need to train as soon as we have opportunity while we keep praying for a small team of friends to begin to train with us.

### **Some Notable Highlights**

After our 9 training events during the trip, we were informed that the use of the creation.com site spiked due to Philippine use. We use their materials quite extensively and we reference their search engine for use by teachers and pastors when more detail is needed on creation subjects. The exhortation worked! Our audiences listened and used the site.

We had several teachers visibly affected by the training and encouraged in their faith. One teacher returned word to us that her classes using the BCC are beginning to make a difference. She could see the effects on the students. These are heartening reports.

We worked several times with a group of young people from a city near IFL. They not only got excited, they began to take more formative steps to be of service to churches and students. They use the BCC book as their primary written tool to share and teach.

### **Our Goals**

Friends have asked about goals, which have not changed. We want the BCC editions to reach the poor or needy worldwide. Downloads for the bible study and projected use of the BCC editions at IFL are in the thousands and forecast to be in the tens of thousands, which is a small fraction of our goal. In the end, we want to make the materials and training available to millions at little or no cost and in whatever electronic form is possible. Right now, the form with widest reach and application would be the cell phone. Surely there is some way, by God's direction and grace, to make a worldwide proliferation happen. We will do whatever we can to make this happen.

In all of this, we still believe we need to maintain our presence at IFL for the sake of friends and especially many of the orphaned children we love. We plan to return to IFL in the later part of 2020 for another multi-month stay at our IFL quarters. We miss them, the staff, and the director, but we also have a lot to do before we return.

Please keep in mind, we receive no royalties at the present time for the BCC. Curriculum is sold by IFL at just a little over cost; all money collected goes back to IFL or to help with training aspects of the curriculum. If we receive contributions, they get applied to training/travel costs, publication/proliferation issues, and helps to those we serve.

A few pictures with brief explanations are shown below our signature. Most of them are the little faces we remember so well. We never forget: they are why we love, teach, and write. There is one of our little cabin in WV, where we currently live in the US. If anyone wants further information, please contact us. We share about the work whenever possible.

### *Roland and Faylene Beard*

Children in the quarters reading books and asking questions is something that happens regularly. Our doors are generally open to children, and we see many...



Some of the college girls, who grew up at IFL in the children's homes, spend time with us periodically. We love them...



Teaching teachers at BC training sessions kept us both busy. This is one of nine of those groups, not including the 50-75 that attended sessions at the teacher's convention...



Some of the faces we love as they gathered for a picture at a wedding of friends. There are stories behind most of the faces you see. Many of these people are close to us, and we see many of them every day:



The two little girls posing with Pat, the director, and Faylene:





The little cabin in WV (the same size as our quarters in the Philippines) is where we presently live in the US. Our writing stations are at the right or back of the cottage. It is cozy and quiet, but we miss the children, staff, and friends at IFL as well as those from Los Banos (below the cabin picture) or the community around IFL in San Isidro, Cabuyao, Laguna.



Given the opportunity and with open doors from God, however, we will develop most of the next edition of curriculum, complete some training videos, and return to IFL in late 2020. We seriously aim to serve where the doors open because so many little ones and young people are at stake, like this little one (below) who often comes to see Faylene. Sooner or later, she will get explanations about why she was created, why she needs Jesus, and why there is hope. How can we stay separated from such a task and not want fruitfulness to increase?

