



Renewed for Christ's Kingdom

As Pastor Rubene goes about his day ministering to his community, he's aware of the suspicious looks aimed his way.

Many doubt his testimony of becoming a new man in Christ. He doesn't blame them. After all, his past was a violent one.

Rubene was raised in an abusive household. After emerging from one particularly dangerous attack unscathed, he came to believe that spirits were protecting him from harm. Thinking he had nothing to fear, he became a notorious troublemaker in his neighborhood.

As an adult, he eventually got married and moved in with his wife's family. One day, he witnessed his wife being physically abused by her father. Rubene recalls his vision going dark. When things became clear again, he realized he had killed his father-in-law and two brothers-in-law.

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Rubene was jailed for murder. But during his imprisonment, a missionary shared the gospel with him. Rubene realized that spirits can't protect him from God's judgment — only Christ can. He accepted Jesus as his Savior.

Once he was released from prison, he began working to share God's grace with his people and even joined the Pag-asa Cluster translation project. Some community members met his new, unexpected behavior with heavy distrust — a sentiment that continues even now. Despite the hostile scrutiny, Rubene is dedicated to serving the Lord; he knows God's Kingdom is more important than himself.

Rubene recognizes that translated Scripture can play a critical role in explaining biblical truths, and he's grateful that this project can help him share about Jesus' gift of redemption in ways that people can clearly understand.

