

January- March 2016

Newsletter

Every day ministry with overseas Filipino workers is always a challenge for us. We become more deeply in love with God and His people as we continue submit ourselves



to His will. We learn to embrace these migrant workers who are in need of our selfless service. God has been molding and teaching our hearts to become more passionate in our service as

missionaries among migrant workers. In the first quarter of 2016 our faith in God as a family is tested and strengthened once again. We confirm by all means that God is a God of healing and comfort. God focuses this 1st quarter with emotional and physical healing among migrant workers.

One Early morning in our routine, my wife and I were preparing breakfast after our morning prayer. Suddenly, there was an impulsive sounds from the buzzer of our main door. "Oh, someone surely needs our time!", we uttered. Our son, Matthew opens the door and it's one of our members (inactive one). As he comes in, he runs towards me shouting "Pastor, Pastor! My child is in critical condition!". He hugs me while crying, horrifying with trembling hands and body. When he's relieved, he talks about the whole story concerning the problem. His daughter (in the Philippines), 2 yrs. old was rushed to the hospital and diagnosed with Meningococemia. However, he's still crying as he continues telling the story. I embrace him tightly and whisper a prayer of comfort for him. This worker came over to our place because he has nobody to turn to amidst his situation. He feels his heart would break and his brain would likely burst up. We are able to minister to him by letting him understand the essence of life and relating it to his daughter's condition. He goes back to his dormitory with a calmed heart. A day after, we got news from him that his daughter is already gone. I inhaled a

deep breath, called him up and gave him assurance from the word of God. This is just one of the experiences that we treasure most as missionaries and testify that God can heal the broken hearted. We remember the word of God in Isaiah 41:10 ***"So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"***.

The worker who has broken hearted and who has lost his adorable daughter has now become strong and he continues to hold on God's promises. He faithfully comes to our church to worship and serve God. Before, he describes himself as black sheep and hardhearted in the eyes of the Creator. Praise be to God for the tangible change of this migrant worker who is now leaving his life and future to Christ alone. God truly uses our ministry to transform people to be more like Him.

We have lots of experiences on God's healing power through his unconditional love for His people. When God heals, He will grant first inner healing and peace to his servants so that his servants like us can do healing and can touch God's people such these migrant workers.

We have more ministries for Filipino migrant workers but we will share to you some highlights during the 1st quarter of 2016.

"BORROW A BABY"

The one who carries a baby is one of our active members . He is working as machine operator in Taiwan for almost twelve years now. He goes back to Philippines every three years whenever his contract is finished. He stays in the Philippines for 2-3 months to process his papers for returning Taiwan. He has three lovely daughters, 4 & 1 year old twin. Because he's been working abroad in his entire marriage life, he never experience being a hands-on father. He has never witnessed his children learn to walk. He's never ever involved in rushing one of his children to hospital whenever one of them is sick. He never plays regular and long moment with his children. When his eldest child learns to talk and knows to call him up over the



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phone, the struggle becomes deeper, develops stronger, and gets more painful. Every time his eldest talks, the final words are always "Bye Daddy, love you, miss you! Please come home soon!". A parent like him can't help but just cry in silence with a heavy heart and just trying to be optimistic to give assurance to a child that he's coming home very soon.

One Sunday morning, a Filipino woman whose spouse is a Taiwanese came over to join us in worship. She brought her baby with her in the church for the first time. This nine month old baby becomes a baby of all especially to the guy in the photo. It is the first time; the church has a baby in the congregation. It is such a timely and a lovely visit!

What a happiness this baby has brought to Filipino working fathers like him (in photo). The joy can hardly describe in his face. Seemingly his heart is dancing in delight of this one of a kind experience. He's carrying a baby met for the first time, playing with a baby who has no blood relation to him, and hanging up with a baby whose parents are unknown to him.

Working abroad is a crucial decision. Most especially to parents whose children are left at home. The homesickness strikes every now and then, the heavy and unfathomable feelings whenever a child is sick and the longing to hug and kiss a child is being suppressed.

Our community is right here for Filipino workers who needs fellows who will serve as friends, as brothers & sisters, as parents to somehow augment the need of a family.

TRANSPORT TO COMFORT



Part of our ministry is "transport to comfort". We offer our church car to bring patients who need medical care & services when nobody could bring them to hospital/clinic. Besides transportation, we offer moral support to Filipino workers who are sick because nobody is with them since co-

workers are out to work and loved ones are far back home.

In this photo, he's advised to have surgery of his lip lump. We accompany him to the hospital for the operation. It is his first time to be hospitalized. He's so nervous. His parents are on the phone line talking to him when we're heading to hospital. Before he's brought to Operating room, his parents talked to us and expressed their gratitude for helping their son. They urge us to have an intentional meeting with us when we go to Philippines because they want to thank us personally.

After that incident, this worker recognizes God as His Messiah who never let him down in times of need. Since that day up to now, this worker comes to church to faithfully worship God and offers his talent into Christ's service which he never did in his entire past life.

SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Whenever a typhoon hits a place, everything is messy. The clouds are in chaos as well. However when the typhoon is gone, everything up there is clear and calm.

Well, Spiritual Retreat is like a day after typhoon. It is a moment of clearing everything in life. It's also a moment of soothing one's heart in the presence of Christ. Spiritual retreat revitalizes one's inner being to become ready and strong again for all challenges in life.



Part of our ministry is hosting an Annual Spiritual retreat for Filipino migrant workers. This years' retreat takes place last February.

This wonderful event could somehow allow the Filipino workers to rest in God's presence and with all others from the hardships, boredom, and burdens of all sorts upon doing hard work while away from their loved ones.

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The participants encounter God in one of a kind experience. They are able to express themselves out to God, to learn more about God, to understand life, to value work and life, and to honor God in everything.

Indeed the event is very meaningful and memorable one for all of us.

SOLIDARITY WITH THE OPPRESSED

Last month, farmers in North Cotabato, Philippines went out to let their voices be heard. There were



thousands of them. Basically, they want rice to ease their hunger. They have not planted anything in their land because of "El Nino". Therefore, they have no harvest and they got no food.

These farmers are essentially asking for rice, yet they got bullets instead which caused two dead and many have been injured.

We, as Filipino missionaries whose parents are also farmers feel the anguish of these famers. We can't help but urge the Filipino workers to stand with the farmers who suffered oppression from the government. We hosted a community prayer in solidarity with the hungry farmers. This happens during the opening ceremony of our

Basketball League for Filipino workers in our community. We remind the Filipino workers to be good steward of their earnings and value anything recognizing God as the source of everything.



We are very grateful to God for the spirit of life, hope and love having you in our journey for migrant ministry. Indeed, you are the answer to our prayers. Despite your financial & emotional struggles, you are still so strong to endure the call to Christ's MISSION. We are intensely praying for you in order that you may continually touch many lives in Christ's service.

We would like to invite you to pray for missionary work with Migrant Filipino Workers in Taiwan. We invite you to walk with us in a missionary journey and pray for us in the ministry of Migrant Workers in Taiwan. Pray that our ministry can be an instrument to be a blessing of God's love.

We are humbly knocking to your generous heart to support Global Ministries by assisting with our salary support through the advance #s so we can remain faithful to the call the Lord made on our life. We invite you to engage in hand-on activities like supporting migrant workers for their monthly outdoor fellowship.

For financial contributions, you may:

1. Use Global Ministries' website: www.umcmmission.org to send a donation for my salary support. At the bottom of the page, click on "Missionaries". Scroll to our name on the missionaries' page and our profile will appear. At the bottom of our profile is a link to make an online donation.
2. Through mailing a check to your local church or conference office. Write "for Alma J. Navarro # 3022029, and Richard B. Navarro # 3022030" on the memo line of your check.

If not sending through a local United Methodist Church, you may send your check to:

Advance GCF ; P.O. Box 9068 ; New York, NY 10087-9068.

We end with words to say thank you and we appreciate so much for your faithful support!

Sincerely,

Richard & Alma Navarro

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