

January-March 2017

Newsletter



As we journey in this life we cannot hide ourselves from the scratches of painful struggles. That's why the emotional being is so stretched and does not know where to go. There are times we are waiting for help from others and sometimes longing for miracles to sphere us from the dungeon of anguish. Similarly, the Filipino migrant workers here in our place have this same condition. During the 1st quarter of 2017, "TAHANAN" ministry is focusing on "Spiritual Renewal" of everyone who is tired from carrying heavy loads. Filipino migrant workers are weighed down in many ways not only their emotional wounds but also in their whole being which is loaded in despair. The vitality of our ministry for migrant workers is to inspire, to encourage and to give hope for their wounded souls who wanted to have freedom from heavy baggage in life. We encourage them to live in the promise of Christ who says ***"Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light"***(Matthew 11: 28-30). This assurance from Christ shall be experienced and be made real to the Filipino workers by soaking in our contextualized teaching, passionate worship, powerful preaching. We also have tangible work for these people as an expression of our real concern and love to them by bringing them to hospitals during emergencies and other medical needs especially when their broker/agent is not available to attend their needs. We have our direct and

concrete ministry for these migrant workers since Christ's principle in reaching souls is giving life to others ***"Jesus said, my commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your LIFE FOR THEM"*** (John 15: 12-13). We as missionaries from Global ministries are constantly reminding ourselves that Christ called us not to be served but to serve and love others thru Filipino migrant workers here in Taiwan.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Tahanan conducts Spiritual Retreat among Filipino migrant workers annually. This is usually done



during Chinese New Year (January or February) because it is a national 6-9 day holiday.

However, most of the Filipino workers have overtime work on holidays. This year's Retreat is conducted last January 28-29, 2017 in Tahanan sanctuary. This was attended by 45 Filipino migrant workers. The morning session has different audience from evening sessions. Filipino workers who work in the morning have joined the evening sessions. Those who work in the evening have the chance to attend the morning sessions. We invited speakers from the Philippines to



January-March 2017

Newsletter

help us out in this event. Indeed, this activity refreshes, restores and encourages the lives of those who have attended.

On the 2nd night of the retreat, Richard and I were surprised by the speeches of gratitude with tears from our members and tokens of appreciation have been given to us by group. And we call it “Pastor Appreciation Night”.

GBGM VISIT

Tahanan is blessed by the presence of Ate Rebecca Asedillo and Rev. Paul Kong. They are from



Global ministries. They visited TAHANAN last February 12, 2017. Ate Becky (Rebecca)

got the chance to

preach during our morning worship service. Our worship centers on the celebration of Valentine’s Day.

We were able to express our love to our loved ones thru writing love notes in a heart shape paper and we hanged it on the Tahanan Tree of love with a prayer. Their presence has a great impact to our ministry because they met



Taiwan Methodist Church key leaders led by Bishop Chen at the headoffice in Taipei and talked about

strengthening the partnership for our work among Filipino Migrant workers here in Taiwan.

HOME VISIT

Last March we went home to the Philippines to mainly visit our sick parents. And we got the chance to see and meet

our co-workers on our home district in East Mindanao Philippines Annual Conference

and were able to preach the

Word and share our work during District Conference.

This home visit though five days only yet we have limited yet worthwhile moments to do counseling with few friends and loved ones. We visited some places to see loved ones and friends and we had fun. We are hoping to have longer home visit some other time.



TAHANAN 911

One night, one Filipino migrant worker called us up and asked for help. She wants an emergency hospital confinement.



This patient met a vehicular accident on her way to her dormitory. She’s driving her bicycle that time when a

January-March 2017

Newsletter

motorcycle hit her upon crossing an intersection. Her head was hit on the ground and she was rushed to emergency room at nearest hospital for further observation. After two hours, nothing was found for necessity of confinement and further treatment so she was discharged. One day after, she felt headache and nausea. Nobody could take her to hospital that time because her broker/agent is busy. So we took her to hospital for emergency care and test and found out she has blood clot on her head. We assisted for her confinement and after few days her health is restored and she's able to go back to her work in the factory.

COUNSELING HIGHLIGHT

One of our counselees for the past three months is a worker from a factory who is always alone. Perhaps



due to age gap since she is 20-30 years older from most of her co-workers. Few months ago, she got struggle with her

broker/agent regarding her work. She's deeply troubled and afraid that she might be sent home and can't come back and so forth. She came to us and seek for advice and prayers. Recently, she took a vacation to the Philippines for 2weeks. She had quality time with her family especially with her mother who just turned 89 years old. Upon coming back to work, she received a call telling her that her brother passed away due to heart attack. In times like this, she has nobody to turn to but to us. We avail our time to listen, to comfort and to guide

our dear Filipino migrant workers like her who is not a member of our church here called "Tahanan".

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 Spring Sports fest.

For financial contributions, you may:

1. Use Global Ministries' website: www.umcmission.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 GCFA ; 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

RNavarro@umcmission.org/ANavarro@umcmission.org