

March & April 2015

Newsletter

Dear fellow Servants of God,
Peace be with you all in Christ Jesus.!



Once again, we hear and see each other through this ministry of Christ Jesus among Filipino Migrant Workers in Taiwan. Yes, we don't see in person but you are with us since God has established this ministry through your prayers and financial support. As family, we are challenged yet joyful doing God's mission for his people.

Where God Leads Missionary Follows

Last April, we attended Asia-Pacific missionary gathering in Cambodia. This event is regularly sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministry (GBGM). We got a chance to meet co-missionaries serving in different countries in Asia-Pacific. We heard from their great and extraordinary stories about mission. Missionaries have their own magnificent and significant stories concerning Christ's mission. Everyone has experienced various agonies as they decide to follow Jesus in fulfilling His mission. We are reminded of Jesus' Word, *"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."* (Mark 8:34). Denying ourselves is making our life apt to the life of Jesus. Jesus offers his life for the transformation of the world in order that the humanity would experience peace and harmony. Christ's death on the cross is a

great reminder and inspiration to all of us who follow his work to push on in pursuing justice and peace in the community we are in. As Jesus said on the cross *"Father, Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit."* When he had said this, he breathed his last. (Luke 23: 46 NIV).

This would mean, Jesus never gave up on us. *"Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit"* is a preservation of his principle of belief and faith so that the world will encounter His unconditional love, experience fair justice and peace. This Spirit of Christ is always beneficial and will continue throughout generations in calling to stop all kinds of abuse and oppression of all sorts. For instance, Extra Judicial killing (EJK) is currently a dominating issue in the Philippines. This is just one kind of oppression especially to those who are feeble and poor. This cruelty is similarly an experience of Christ from His birth up to his death on the cross. The enduring and selfless Spirit of Christ will carry on to those who faithfully follow his footsteps such as the global missionaries who are sent from everywhere to everywhere.

Recently our very own co-missionaries Tawanda, Miracle and Adam serving in the Philippines have experienced oppression from higher government authority for false allegations. Tawanda is detained for more than six weeks. Miracle's passport is confiscated making her idle in fulfilling her mission work around the country. And Adam receives threats for his life. Thanks for the Global Ministries thru the leadership of General Secretary, Thomas Kemper who initiated to work with other UMC bishops and church leaders to call the Philippine government to "Let them Leave" campaign be a success. Thus, the three missionaries are now free and home. We reminisce the 2016 bombing in Istanbul's Ataturk Airport which our General Secretary, Thomas Kemper had a frightening experience. That resulted to killing 40 people. Thanks God, he is safe and free from emotional trauma. These are servants of God who faithfully follow the steps of Christ to fearlessly and tirelessly moving forward in proclaiming the principle of Christ on peace and justice.

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Missionaries around the globe have their own stories how their lives have been threatened, trampled, encountered tough pressures in missions and experienced various emotional angst. However missionaries are relentless and brave to face sufferings because they perceive and receive the breath of Christ which is the Spirit of God to continue the work of Christ. Kudos to all missionaries from everywhere to everywhere. To God be the highest glory!

Missionary Gathering in Cambodia

Global missionaries gather once in every



four years by region. Asia-Pacific missionary gathering was held last April in Cambodia. This gathering is significant event for each missionary to reunite with colleagues in mission. To be part of this gathering is like going home. Meeting family in mission is fulfilled and foodfilled. Moments like this is sharing and listening different stories in mission. Most importantly, missionary gathering is a time to get refreshed, to be recharged and inspired for the work in mission.

Tahanan Hosts Basketball Fest to Community

Basketball Fest is the most awaited annual event for Filipino migrant workers in our community. People in the community gather as players, supporters and expectators every Sunday afternoon for the games as scheduled. The basketball Fest is a two month event. This promotes

our ministry, encourages unity, and creates an



atmosphere where there is fellowship and fun among Filipino migrant workers.

Confirmation of Faith 2018

We are cautiously striving in teaching the Tahanan'ians about "Baptism" and "Confirmation."



Tahanan'ians is majority come from Roman Catholic faith. In the Philippines, Baptism is an issue for most believers. Generally, Baptism is understood as a ritual for church membership. In Tahanan, we let Tahanan'ians comprehend Confirmation of Faith and Baptism. We encourage them to seriously confirm their faith which their

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parents did during their infant baptism. The ceremony is done as they confirm their faith. It is through water immersion being held at the ocean recreation area nearest to our place.

Tahanan Faith Journey: Discipleship Class

Tahanan is now four years old. We journey together with many trial and error or variations in discipleship program to see fruits in the spiritual



journey of enduring Tahanan'ians. The discipleship curriculum which we contextualize according to their needs has led Tahanan'ians to freely confirm their faith thru water immersion and intensionally walk with God. Currently, there are about 40-50 Tahanan'ians who religiously attending discipleship classes every Sunday. One class for beginners and the other session is for Tahanan existing and potential leaders. These two sessions are being done simultaneously. (Richard is with the beginners and Alma handles the Leaders' class)

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 activities.

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 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

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