

January- March 2018

Newsletter

FEAR PROTECTS

The word FEAR sounds not good for most people because it is a negative feeling. Fear paralyzes our hope and collapses our daily routines. Fear has two responses, to fight or to flight. We try to fight



because of circumstances that we are in the middle of no options to run. To flight because we are afraid to lose our lives, hopes, dreams and even loved ones. When Jesus appeared to the disciples after his resurrection the disciples were in dreadful situation behind locked doors. They are terrified because they contemplate that they will be captured by the perpetrators of Jesus and thinking that they will be next to die. Jesus appearances to the disciples signify assurance of hope that their master is raised from the dead. Unfortunately, anxiety is still the heartbeat of the disciples despite Jesus has been saying "FEAR NOT!" We cannot blame the disciples why they are in great fear because it is a natural feeling which could hardly be concealed. The disciples need to protect themselves from death. They need to spare themselves from the murderer of Jesus. They have to keep themselves away from people. And here comes Jesus who is consistently giving them assurance of peace and of relief.

The appearance of Jesus is a possibility of expressing His own fears as well. Jesus is somehow afraid of losing His disciples. Moreover, Jesus is concern about the continuity of His work, of the mission which the disciples are supposed to be doing. The disciples needed to protect themselves behind locked doors. However, Jesus also wanted to protect his divine work and that's the reason why he persistently reminding them through his appearances because they need to open their hearts and minds, to go out from the room of fears and to be the witnesses of Christ into the proclamation of His Word.

Protecting ourselves and loved ones are our rights and basic needs. Sometimes, to step back and to hide because of fear is not just becoming a coward. It is sometimes more of protecting ourselves and protecting something significant in life. Let's take a look at Jesus, when he intensely prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, he felt the profound pressure and then he prayed; "*Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.*" Luke 22: 42" this statement, Jesus fears to give his life on the cross and afraid he can't fulfill the will of his father.

The basic need we can offer to our ministry for Filipino migrant workers is to protect them, their work and also their family back home. Our work here will find the brightest way to help protect these workers holistically. Sometimes we fear to achieve the protection we wish to give for these migrant workers because we need to choose on how to help them without affecting their work. We help them by hiding their identity. If they are identified then their work and the bread for their family shall be vanished. Furthermore, the *brokers (mediators between workers and employer)* with person in conspiracy inside the company will do some ways to send the workers home who are against them.

Sometimes fear is good to protect ourselves and family. Fear drives us to think again and again for the better if not best decisions. Fear pushes us to pray and to trust Christ fully. Praised be to God for the fears to refocus our calling in mission.



LIGHT SPARKS AS NEW YEAR STARTS

→ TAHANAN'ians gather on New Year's Eve to welcome 2018. In the celebration, everyone is full of excitement what would 2018 brings. And everyone is able to light a candle on a cross shaped decorated ribbon in the altar area. This is an act of rekindling one's light from the light of Christ which is our ultimate guide as we journey on towards the great plan of God into our lives.

MOLD ME MORE LIKE CHRIST →



Tahanan's spiritual retreat this year was held last February. The activity is a powerful experience for participants to submit themselves to the Lord in order that Christ as the potter shall mold them according to the shape God wanted them to be. It was a heartwarming event indeed!

CLEAN UP DRIVE → TAHANAN is situated in an industrial zone where factories surround us and there are residential buildings as well. There are four



foreign ethnicities working in various factories in the area and Filipino is one of them. → Tahanan, being part of the community, we recently initiated to help clean the park nearby. Soon we will be cleaning the main street and seaside areas as well in carrying out the program of Tahanan outreach ministry. This gesture is an act of our ecological concern as God's stewards of His creation.

TAHANAN LEADERS → In any other churches like UMC(United Methodist Church), the set of church leaders is called "church council". In Tahanan, we call our entrusted leaders as EXECOM (Executive Committee). → January of this year, Tahanan has new set of execom members. This set of leaders has strong goal of having servant heart and Spirit- led leadership in fulfilling their tasks.

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Furthermore, these leaders are determined to learn more of God thru His words and to experience God



more in their lives. It is our inspiration to have them equipped to share the Gospel to others. They are able to lead individual or group to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

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 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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