



Our Dear Co-workers,

Well time continues to evaporate and evaporate quickly. How true is the Lord's statement that our lives are like a vapour, like smoke that is there one moment and then gone the next. It won't be long and we will be with our Lord Jesus.

I have been thinking a bit about crises that we all go through as God's children.

-Most all of us have significant personal crises that we go through from time to time, and sometimes ALL the time - all that the Lord allows to come our way. He is not taken by surprise.

-Then we have ministry crises that we need to endure also.

-Thrown in with these, we have the crises such as we all experienced in the "Covid" era and now we have the war and potential shortages of energy and possibly food??

As I thought about these crises the Lord brought back to my mind a hymn that we have often sung —

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone."

— How true and how faithful are the words of this hymn. We walk by faith and not by sight.

Our Men's camp was amazing to say the least. About 500 of us men who walk with Jesus in this part of the world, gathered and we enjoyed so many great cook outs together, cooking over fires, eating together, sharing, laughing, playing basketball and most importantly we studied God's powerful Word. It was a time that greatly encouraged our hearts - GREATLY.

There were some trials though. A tricad (tuktuk type vehicle) that was coming to the men's camp from the Pigtao and Tingalan churches ran down a steep hill, tumbling over and over. I can't work out how nobody was killed. It was just God. The vehicle was destroyed and 4 men hospitalised, one young man with a broken femur which has since been operated on and he, Ivan, is well on the mend now. Rudi the Pigtao Church elder has a broken collar bone. God has provided all the needs to help these 4 men and their vehicle as well.

So that was a trial for the Tingalan/Pigtao churches. The Tingalan church is just a young, at the breast, infant church - we only opened this church last year and there are about 50 believers in that village now. Pigtao is not too far from Tingalan. Well since the men returned home there from the Men's Conference, there have been some very intense trials that God has allowed to engulf these churches.

- A 13 year old girl was murdered by her uncle in Tingalan after he assaulted her. They are not believers but many of the believers are related to this family so this terrible thing has caused great grief for the church there.

- An up and coming Tinanglan church leader's wife has just had to have a mastectomy as she was found to have stage 4 cancer. Please pray for her full recovery.
- An elderly lady drowned in the river.
- Ivan as we mentioned above, recovering from his surgery and Ludi also continuing to convalesce.
- And then a good friend of ours, one of the original group of believers, Sabilo, was electrocuted while doing some repairs at his home, and has had to have his arm amputated. He is still in hospital with burns to much of his body but thankfully alive.

So it is hurt, hurt, hurt and pray, pray, pray for Deb and I and the believers in these areas. Jesus is always the difference and the One who pulls us through.

Please pray for the Pigtao and Tingalan churches as they go through these refining fires. God wants us to count it all joys when we go through these intense trials - it is so difficult to do - but we do it by faith.

On a brighter note - Debbie and I go to Manila to meet with the Philippine Bible Society later this month and will give them the Higaonon New Testament which they will print for us. We will have 3,000 copies of this New Testament printed. We still need funding for this project so please pray with us. Needless to say our hearts are overflowing with joy at the completion of this project — we would never have imagined that God would enable us to translate His precious Word into two languages, and we couldn't have done this without the beautiful teams He raised up to help us. How God takes the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. He flips everything upside down, the first become last and the last first — we could go on and on.

This letter has become a bit long so I will sign off for now. How much we thank each of you precious co-workers who journey with us in this great mission over here. To Our Great God Be All the Glory!

Because He Lives, We Can Face Tomorrow!

Love,
Paul and Deb

