

Clemente Newsletter

May 2022

Reconnection: “Family Life”

Carmen in Kentucky and Jacob here in Illinois are both doing well. They are enjoying friends and being busy with school. Meanwhile, my (David's) extended family, the families of my brothers and sisters in the Philippines, are getting together for a Clemente Reunion 2022. We will all go to a resort near Manila and have fellowship for two and half days. The last time we did this was in June 2019. I will go by myself and join this reunion in July 30, 2022. Sarah and the kids can participate virtually via Zoom or FaceTime.

I (David) will be in Asia this mid-July and stay with my sisters in three different places in the Philippines. So, this means that I will be visiting ministry locations in Asia, with my base in Manila, Philippines. Pray for this short time of being away from family. Rejoice with me for this great time of reconnecting with my siblings and their respective children and grandchildren. Praise God.

Report: “Prayers Are Being Answered”

Thank you for praying for Pastora Emma, our Country Leader for Australia. This month of April, she got to visit with families in Brisbane. Her team of leaders traveled from Darwin and she from Sydney, just to be a source of encouragement to these families. She reported that on the day they met, a lady downstairs to their meeting place became curious. One good thing led to another, and pretty soon this lady wanted to join their meeting and any future gathering. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

Thank you for praying for our missionary from Country-VN. She reported this week, the last of week of April, that one student from the school she is currently teaching accepted Jesus as her Savior and Lord. Praise God, with all the heavenly beings!

Let us continue with our prayers for our workers in Asia. Just recently, I received a report of our missionary who is teaching English in a restricted country. She shared that several times after her classes, her high school students would come to her in tears sharing about family problems at home. Praise the Lord for this opportunity to be a light for Jesus in a country where it is illegal to share the

Christian gospel. Pray for wisdom to our missionaries as they continue to serve our God in Asia.

Thank you for your prayers for the September mission training. Someone sent \$250. Another wrote an email committing an undisclosed amount. The leaders in the Philippines booked the place where we are gathering for the MTC2022, Mission Training Conference in Butuan City, Philippines. Please continue to pray. As I mentioned in my previous newsletter, there is a matching grant of \$2,000.00 for this event. Please consider giving to the needs of MTC2022.

Recap: “Praying With Joy”

(1.) Please continue to pray for our leaders in Australia and the ones scattered around Asia. Pray for Pastora Emma, for Pastora Helen, and for Pastor Byacelela. You can revisit our previous newsletter for more background about these pastors.

(2.) Pray for God’s work in New Zealand. Through our small Filipino network, our Free Methodist work is expanding in Auckland, NZ. Pray for Joy, a Filipina who is living in NZ for the last two decades or so. Together with her family, she is committed to be God’s missionary for FM work in this country. I (David) will visit NZ sometime this October. Pray for a good meeting with Joy. Pray for fruitful connections with other Christians who will become partners with FMWM-Asia. Pray that the Lord will raise up more leaders in this region of Oceania.

(3.) Pray for Pastora Tessa and HGIF (Higher Ground International Fellowship), and the work among Filipino migrant workers in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. You remember HGIF from our time in Taiwan, right? Also, do you remember GREFIN or Greater Filipino Network? (Please see our February 2022 newsletter for more information.) Through the ministry of GREFIN, FMWM-Asia is able to connect with HGIF and other Filipino leaders. Now, we have Joy from New Zealand. And we are currently preparing the ground to work with another Filipino missionary in Thailand. God’s work through GREFIN is slowly moving forward. Pray for God’s wisdom and inspiration as FMWM-Asia (through GREFIN) becomes a source of encouragement to these many Filipino missionaries (or those working with Filipino groups). Pray for meaningful connections.

(4.) Please continue to pray for the Missions Training Conference this September 13-17, 2022, which will be held in Butuan City, Philippines. (Again, if you want to contribute to this event, please write me a personal note.)

(5.) Pray for our FMWM work in Country-PK. This first week of May, we had teaching modules for our leaders there using zoom. We were streaming our

sessions online to two different locations. Pray for this time of equipping for our Asian partners.

(6.) Pray for the Better Together Convergence (BTC2022) in Chiang Mai, Thailand. FM leaders from around Asia will converge for a time of encouragement, reports, and fellowship. BTC2022 will be this November 6-8, 2022. Please pray for safe travel for everyone. Please pray for a clear vision for the Lord's work in Asia.

Review: "Praying With Anticipation"

I (David) will be in Indonesia this summer 2022. Pray that FMWM-Asia will be able to make meaningful connections with God's people among the many indigenous churches in the country. Pray for safe travel and protection from the elements. (I will share more details in my next newsletter.)

Pray for God to bring new opportunities for a thriving work in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and many more cities in Australia. I will share more news about what is happening in these countries and their cities in the next newsletter.

Reflection: "Holy Unrest"

Charles Ringma shares "While there is an affirming dimension to our quest for spirituality, there is also an element of disquiet" (*Dare To Journey With Henri Nouwen*. 1992:110).

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