

Clemente Newsletter

March 2021

David's Discussions

Jesus, after healing the leper of his physical disease, asked the person to go to his priest for a ceremonial cleansing, so that he can be declared legally healed and cleansed, and start reconnecting with other people in the community. Without the formal declaration from the priest, he will always be a social outcast. But with the legal paper in his hand, he can start “social healing” or begin sharing with others and talking with his family. The physical healing has now opened up the door to a future relational healing. The healing that Jesus gave to his physical body can continue through the process of reconciliation in his community; through the renewal of friendships and reconnecting with families. The healing experience is now leading to another part of this person’s life—his social life. So, Jesus asks this healed leper to go and see the priest for his ceremonial cleansing. (Compare, Matthew 8:1-4, and Mark 1:40-45) Physical healing and social transformation go together in the kingdom of God.

What forms of “social healing” came to your life after God’s answers of physical healing? Are you reconnecting with your friends and sharing the power of Jesus to heal both body and spirit?

Let us not follow the example of the leper who “[but] went out” and did not go to the priest for his legal papers. In the end, he caused more trouble for Jesus. (See, Mark 1:45.) Jesus had difficulty entering a town because of this leper’s disobedience. He did not follow through what Jesus said after receiving the healing from his leprosy.

Go ahead and ask God for physical healing. But be aware of the “social healing” that God will demand from you—that is, for you to go out and reconnect with friends and families, and declare God’s transforming power for all peoples.

Partnership Building

These several months have been a time of Partnership Building, visiting friends and supporters from Michigan and Illinois. The visits had been limited because of the Covid-19 pandemic situation. Now that the situation is getting better, I should say, the numbers are not getting any worse, I would expect more travel in the next few weeks and spending time with our prayer partners and reconnecting with our friends.

“The last time I was here was nine years ago.” This was my refrain when I visited Hastings church. At the coffee break, I chatted with Nancy, and asked her when she first came to this local church. She said: “It was nine years ago. I remember that Sunday when you came with your family. I was there.” What a joy! Thank you Pastor Brian and the leaders of Hastings FMC for inviting me and giving me the time to share from God’s word and to report on what God is doing in Asia.

Also, I was blessed with a visit to Wayland, MI. There were about a dozen children in the sanctuary when I gave a missions report. I told the children that they have blessed me so much. “You see, in Asia, when we have Sunday services, we have children all the time, around us, participating in our worship time. Children talking and babies crying do not distract us. In fact, we consider them as music to our ears. Thank you for coming and encouraging me. You made me remember my time in Asia.” Thank you Pastor Luke and Cheryl for giving me the pulpit to share from God’s word. Thanks also to

(ret.) Pastor Tom and Joyce for inviting me to come. I treasure the friendship. I had a good time visiting with Tom and Joyce and seeing the "miracle house" and hearing the stories of God's goodness in their lives.

Prayers and Petitions

*****Pray for Country-MR. There is political turmoil in this country and people are protesting on the streets. As of this week, several protesters have died when government soldiers opened fire on the people. Pray for an end to the violence. Pray for God's reign in this land.

*****Please continue to pray for Pastor A from Country-NP in South Asia. His mother passed away last month. She was 80 years old and was battling lung cancer. Pray for the family as they grieve the passing of their mother and grandmother.

*****Praise God for His work in Country-NP. These last two months, baptisms are happening, weddings occur, pastoral visits continue, and ministry is continuing. In the midst of the Covid pandemic, the church is alive, and God is moving in the lives of our Free Methodist members.

*****Pray for the plan to purchase a property for a Ministry Center in Country-NP. Pastor A and the board members are meeting regularly to assess all the needs and various preparations for this plan. Pray for wisdom and direction from our Lord.

Faithful Finances

We are thankful for your prayers and financial partnership as we participate in the Lord's work in Asia together. We are happy and grateful to report that we ended 2020 **in the black**.

If you would like to give towards ministry development and leadership training in Asia through the Clementes, you may mail a check to:

Free Methodist Church - USA
770 N High School Rd
Indianapolis IN 46214

Checks should be made out to "Free Methodist Church - USA" with "Clemente MSA" noted in the Memo line. *FMWM will provide you with a receipt as all financial gifts are tax-deductible.*

God bless you,

David and Sarah Clemente