

Dearest beloved missions partner,

October

Praising the Lord for the blessing of World Missions Emphasis Month where we were graced by several fellow missionaries and pastors who preached to us about missions. God blessed us with outstanding results in that our missions budget doubled and we were able to add and adopt new missionaries to support, as well as our people getting a push and prod to share the Gospel where we are.

November

God allowed our Church open doors to two Filipino families who came to India to bring their infants for liver transplant. We thanked the Lord for the opportunity to minister to them and especially be able to share the Gospel to them. Sadly, only one of the two kids were able to survive.

It was one of the hardest points of my ministry to see a 10 month old baby being cremated as the cause of death it seems was covid.

I did what I could to encourage the grieving father by telling him that while there was no way to bring his son back, there was a sure way to see him again; that is by being sure that he himself has accepted Christ as Saviour.

We also stood side by side with our dear brother, Ramulu, who contracted the Corona virus and was hospitalized for a period of 40 days. We went and encouraged him, and His response was gold when he said that despite all of his trials, God was in control.

November and December

These months saw our Bible Institute ministry bear fruit especially in the area of soul winning. Our local government has slowly transitioned into allowing gatherings to bigger crowds and our church took advantage of this ministry window to gather and invite more people especially for our Thanksgiving Sunday and Christmas program. We praise the Lord that we could use this avenue as a means to preach Christ who was born one day for the salvation of mankind.

Interestingly after our services, our people noticed that there were those who were outside trying to record and video those who were going out from the church premises and this happened twice. We prayed to the Lord for his preservation for our family as well as ministry.

Entering 2021, the theme of our church was “SO MUCH MORE” and immediately blessings came to our church in the form of diverse trials.

A number of our people either contracted or were suspected cases of Covid. But we thanked the Lord for the Word of God sustaining and strengthening our lives emotionally and especially spiritually.

There was no reason to give up God or His work, He has placed so much more in our hearts attempting great things for God and expecting great things for Him, despite the circumstances.

February and March

We received a call from and were suddenly visited by interrogating officers in our home / Church. My wife and I thanked the Lord that before they came they called up which gave us enough time to bring down all the church decorations, the pulpit and all things that gave an indication that we were a Church.

The interrogation was very stressful as they asked me many questions on which I believe they already knew the answer.

They even told me that we might have a hard time coming back. It seems that they have done their research; they knew a lot of things with regards to my family and the reason for our stay.

Because of this, we immediately decided to no longer meet in our rented place for the time being. In fact, we had to move from one house to the other, Sunday after Sunday, for our church services for the duration of 2 months. I encouraged and reminded our folks that this was the same thing that happened in the book of Acts where it says from house to house they gathered for God's Word. It was truly encouraging that wherever the church meeting would be, our church folks would follow suit. There was even one time where we had our church 120 kilometers away.

In all of this, as a pastor and missionary, I am truly encouraged by the strength that God has given to his people.

Despite all of these, the last Sunday of March, God allowed us to celebrate our 7th year church anniversary and to God be the glory indeed, great things He has done.

We saw several professions of faith including that of our very own landlord who has always been sympathetic to our church.

We came back to Philippine soil on April 6 as this was something that the Foreign Relations instructed us to do. We also felt it necessary for the safety of our family and ministry to let the dust clear for some time and hopefully in the next few months attempt again to re enter the field in obedience to God's leading.

I am continually challenging God's people whether present or absent we all be found faithful in the sight of God.

Thank you so much for bearing with us; we know that your prayers have brought about wisdom, protection safety and provision despite the many, many challenges that we have faced here in the field.

Looking forward to be in with you and share to you God's goodness in all that He has allowed.

Your representative in the field of India,

Mark Joseph Maglasang and family

Prayer request:

- Safety and protection of our Indian brethren and strength to move forward in faith despite the escalated situation that they are in.
- Wisdom for our preachers as they minister to God's people on a weekly basis.
- No red flag for me and my family in the Indian immigration database.