

July 2010

Dear praying partners and friends at FBC,

Greetings! How are you doing? You have been in our thoughts and prayers thanking God for your participation for the work in progress in the Philippines. Please be informed that your donation for June has been received, sent to the Philippines. We gladly thank you so much again for your faithful partnership. Your donation is mostly used for the everyday operation of the ministry. You are one of the many sources God sent into our lives to encourage and strengthen us.

Sometimes hearing all the threats of double recessions and today's troubled world make our minds wonder, anxious about what holds the future, but finding solace with God through spiritual discipline of prayers, listening and meditating on His Word, makes our hearts relaxed, rested and at peace. Surely we can trust God that, "He who begun a good work in us will bring it into completion by the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil. 1:6) So let's keep on celebrating God's goodness, for we know that whatever happens to us is measured by His love that is ever flowing, "more and more." We believe that as we remain faithful and determined to live fully trusting, honouring and glorifying God in all that we do in His name; His purpose will certainly be brought to completion. God is at work in us – as individuals and as communities of believers, a cumulative process, and we are His workmanship.

Personal Updates and Prayer Requests

Arnel – When summer begun, we praise God for the small renovation jobs offered to him through referrals of people he got to know here. Please pray that it will continue, as when fall and winter season come, things get slower again. We are just like ants saving for what will be needed for later. Arnel's 3rd year of stay in Canada will be over by October. He can then apply for citizenship status. Please pray that he will be able to receive the test schedule earlier and that he will be able to pass the test, and move on.

Sonia – I am privileged and honoured to participate in teaching VBS at First Filipino Baptist Church (July 12-17). I am also mostly home updating what is going on in the Philippines just like a mother being away from home in touch with her children. Being in Canada, I feel the domestic life meeting Arnel's needs. In the Philippines, we are usually busy in the ministry that some household chores at home are done by someone for us. Doing correspondence and re-strengthening relationships here is something I also enjoy.

As some of you know in the beginning of our time here, I sort of resented accepting why we are here in Canada, while the ministry is in the Philippines, a hard time of letting go. This time, I made up my mind to accept it graciously, enjoying and cultivating with intentions living the moment, (this present life God gave me now). Pondering again, I am confronted to see who truly I am, my deep and inner desires, a longing that my days be meaningful, that my activity matters in and beyond the moment in which it occurs. Sadly to admit, my good intention get mixed up struggling to be a "performance-driven person", falling again and again. As a result, that desire for meaning and enjoying the present moment easily gets lost by rushing to juggle my time with the many mundane of life being caught up again with moving on ahead to the future, a noise deep within blurring me to see God at times. (Arnel usually sees that in me, saying, I don't know how to wait). Praise God for the gift of a husband who mirrors me, (he is my accountability partner), to help me live better. There is a quote I read then, "Finding the meaning means that we actually show up at our own life. So much of our time we are not present to our own lives." I thank God for Arnel, my life would be lifeless going around and around in circle. How vulnerable we are from deceptions by our enemy, if we are unaware of our weakness. If not careful, ministry activity can only be done without heart or passion violating 1Cor