

Rick & Becky ENTERLINE Prayer Update

November 2017

Dear Praying Friends,

"God, **my exceeding joy** . . . I will praise thee, O God, my God." (Psalm 43:4) We praise Him with thanksgiving for ALL OUR blessings, for you our dear friends and even for the events in our lives that are difficult. Because God Himself is **our exceeding joy**, we have a joy that is based on reality, and therefore it is long-lasting. We have a joy that travels with us wherever we go. Because God went with him, Rick's joy also went with him on his five week+ trip to represent Grace Dental and Medical Missions in churches and Bible schools north of Florida. Becky's joy stayed with her as she worked with children in our home church and with family. We are thankful for His constant presence and the gift of His Word which buoys us up in troubled, turbulent times.

Rick was blessed to make many new contacts for GDMissions. God was certainly leading. One story illustrates this quite well:

It was a busy day at the Christian College. Our display table was low on literature, and Rick needed

to go to the car and get more. He hated to leave the display, but he made a specific choice to trust the Lord that if someone came by, God would take care of getting them the information they needed. That is just what happened! A student and her mother who works in the medical field stopped at the display. Rick wasn't there, but another student, the son of a missionary who had personal knowledge of the Benin Clinic just happened to be at the display. So, he gave them a first-hand perspective about GDMissions' work there. The prospective team member had a terrific young person explain the situation. We praise the Lord that we are partners with God and His people. Later Rick met the lady and her daughter. He was amazed to learn who they were - the daughter and grand-daughter of long-time friends (and supporting pastor)!

After Thanksgiving Rick (known as "the smiling white guy" to our Filipino brethren) plans to return to the Philippines to provide some evangelistic training. We want to develop a uniform co-ordinated approach to our Gospel presentation with an emphasis on **NOT WORKS**; we want to clarify FAITH vs. WORKS. This is vitally important since we are dealing primarily with Roman Catholic folks. We want to clearly answer the question, "What is faith, and how do we exercise it?" We would like to implement this before the next

evangelistic outreach. This involves a training and preparation time. We are trying to prepare a standard set of information we want the people to hear, identifying the elements that cannot be left out.

We also want to find the connection with the culture and then lead them to Christ. In other words, as Paul used the Law to speak to Jews, we can perhaps use Filipinos' emphasis on good works to make the connection with the Gospel. **If the Gospel is NOT Christ ALONE**, what are the implications? There is **NO GOSPEL, NO SALVATION!** So we want to standardize the Gospel presentation to make the true Gospel as clear and accurate as possible.

Here are our goals: 1. train evangelists; 2. possibly ministerial training; 3. possibly teaching on Pneumatology (the doctrine of the Holy Spirit); 4. provide accountability for our co-workers; 5. make sure we are all on same page; 6. and keep things moving forward.

Going back to Rick's recent five-week trip, he was pleased that God gave him totally unexpected opportunities to interact with Filipino national Christians and an American & Filipino missionary couple who have served the Lord in the Manila area

for 27 years. They gave him valuable insights to the culture, evangelism obstacles to beware of and let him know of some really valuable Bible teaching/ discipleship materials just recently translated into Tagalog, the Filipino national language! Thank you, Lord!

Another treat of the five-week trip was meeting two children of missionaries who grew up in Japan. One is a doctor who expressed interest in GDM Missions.

Then after visiting the Philippines, on his return to America Rick will stop in Japan for about two weeks. After a nearly seven years' absence, Rick is hoping to connect with some of our brethren there and especially encourage the Japanese pastor (Koga-sensei) and his wife who minister at the church where we spent the most time (Satogaoka Baptist Church in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture). I hope to meet Seigo, their little boy who was born soon after the nuclear disaster on March 11, 2011.

Thank you for your prayers for us and our family! We are truly grateful to you all who regularly lift us up to the Throne of Grace! Please **DO PRAY SPECIFICALLY** for this upcoming trip on **November 27 through December 19, 2017**. We wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Christ's unworthy servants,
Rick & Becky