

1/23 Phillis 代禱信

Dear Pastor TK and Marie, and the whole Emeth Chapel Family,

A warm greeting from the Southern Philippines! I apologize for being slow in writing to you personally these past months! I wonder how you all re doing there with covid and the wild political climate of the US now? I hope you are both well and pressing on for Him! I am very thankful for you all! I put in a separate report the use of your precious gift for Roxanne's chemo, within the new (very good) system of the CMC who are my financial accountability partners now. I'll try to send that this week.

Thank you also for your kind support of me in this last year as well, and the support I sent into our expenses with the b-town work. Here's an update:

A LOOK BACK at 2020 with THANKSGIVING:

I want to thank you soooo much for being a part of my support and prayer team this past year! You've been an essential part of God's discipling young people and adults in B-town through this strange covid-lock-down year! I'm sending you a little clip of our New Year's program's couple of "surprise" presentations, one prepared by our young people, and one by Roxie to save for her 11 year old, in prayer that she will grow up in Him all her life. (As you know, please don't post this video anywhere...)

Rejoice with me!! God provided each month last year exactly what we needed to hang together during covid! We often stayed in the crucible of the life-on-life discipleship of "lock-down", which has been an incredible privilege! Not often do the "seed sowers" in this type of people group get to also be the mulchers and cultivators, or to be able to watch the loving "Pruner" at work!

I've also had fresh opportunities to serve our community in their needs too! We've been able to have twice weekly clinics, which have grown in attendance as people learn they can trust us to care for them, and not be the "covid police" they imagine the medical community to be. One of the best parts of the clinic has been that three of our teens (Lillian, Shelly, and Ofelia) have joined our clinic team as assistants -- shadowing me, doing simple lab tests, and guiding patients. Two of these have expressed interest in going on to study medicine someday! God provided some new ultrasound equipment, and the time through "lockdown" for me to stretch this rusty brain! I've been learning to scan more than the usual pregnant tummies (which is fun in itself too!) -- to be able to do some emergency assessments, abdominal problems, and much more, even to look for some of the signs suggestive of covid in the lungs! We're now to the point to where even our district hospital is trusting cases to me for diagnostic ultrasound! This is a big responsibility, but a very fun challenging learning process!

Many patients are scared, and looking for hope, and we are able to share the ONLY real hope through a personal relationship with our Lord. We're patient with these encounters, realizing from history that our people are not quick to "say yes" but through prayer, they may remain impacted toward a decision months or years later.

There were, as I'm sure you experienced, extra costs these months -- like for disinfecting and protective gear for clinics, testing procedures, and special precautions needed in travel. Even though these were not in any official "budget" ***God still provided fully through what must have been YOUR sacrificial giving out of your stretched budget as well! I'm so thankful to Him for YOU!***

A LOOK AHEAD at 2021 IN FAITH:

So what's next for this little body of believers and this "old lady" with them? That's a big question that is placed at His feet daily. But this is one of the possible directions we are looking at, with the ***ultimate goal of there being a lasting, financially sustainable impact for the Lord here for years to come...***

I'm in consultation with many people wiser than me, and we are beginning the process of applying for our clinic site to also be a "Technical Training School". The Philippine government has a priority program, called TESDA (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority) designed to train non-college-bound people in technical skills to prepare them for the job market. This program is even recognized by many countries as people seek work abroad.

There are provisions for private schools to give courses within the government curriculum, to be able to charge tuition and testing fees, and to even be assigned scholarship-paid students as they get approved and recognized. There are set technical competencies to be taught in each course, but there is no restriction on sharing life-giving truth within the coursework.

This month, with endorsement from our Mayor, we will begin what we hear is a longgggg process of paperwork toward this. We are getting ourselves trained up to offer such courses as pharmacy aide, caregiving, village health, driving, organic farming, possibly food processing and others. God has provided a sweet sister from my "home church" in Iligan, Ma'am Celia. She already has a school in the city, and knows the processes. She is willing to partner with us, and to use her energy and network and knowledge to get us going. We just had a meeting over a "halo-halo" last Saturday! We're praying for and beginning to tap needed key godly people to fill places like the board of directors and a school administrator. And seeking His face on who among the disciples here is ready mentally and spiritually to be a part of the team.

We're not sure what the start-up budget will be for this, and many people warn us that TESDA tends to be a "changing in the wind" program of policies and procedures. But this next few weeks we'll be working on a best-estimate to start with.

This task is obviously WAY TOO BIG for this old lady to tackle in her last year or two of ministry... so it's TOO BIG to do without lots of prayer and miraculous provision of wisdom, personnel, and patience! So YOU are needed more than ever! Thank you for coming along on this -- once again -- wild ride of faith!

with love and thanksgiving,

Phyllis