

***“I will love You, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”
“Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name”. --
Psalm 18:1-2, 49***

12 March 2020

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of Jesus our Lord! I trust this finds you well and trusting in Jesus. The news lately has been unsettling to say the least and people are worried, stressed and some are in panic mode. It reminds me somewhat about a day thirty years ago when the very foundations of our city were in upheaval. I am referring to the Baguio City earthquake which hit at a 7.7 magnitude. A few hours later, we had a 6.8 and a 6.4 just minutes apart. My son David had just been born and released from the hospital a few days before. Over one thousand people in our town died and all the roads leading to our city had been cut off. It sounds terrible, and it was, but God’s hand was at work and His people responded so well. Instead of panicking, my friend Meinard saw an incredible opportunity to reach out to people whose very foundations had been shaken. He took some available funds, printed canvas bags and filled them with basic necessities including gospel literature and went downtown to the park (nearby fallen buildings) and distributed those bags and his team shared their faith.

In times like these, people who don’t know Jesus look for those who are not fearful for strength and wisdom. Of course, later when things settle down, people forget their fear and uncertainty but for a brief moment in their lives, they see things as they really are and it is a great opportunity for those of us who are confident in the One who holds our future to share that truth.

In light of the recent news regarding global pandemics and economic fears, I am reminded of the verses above. This is truth. My God is my Rock, my Fortress, my Deliverer. My God, my Strength in whom I trust. We have such confidence in the One who owns us and calls us His children. Let us remember this when fear surrounds us.

All of this is true, but it is also true that we believers live in this reality. Our ministry has had to cancel several international meetings, a friend of mine right now is stuck in the Middle East because most flights return to the US through Europe, and a trip I have had planned for 4 months to Indonesia (at the end of April) is uncertain. Those are realities, but in spite of that, our staff are still creatively continuing to minister and share their faith. We just have to do some of it virtually. I am thankful that we live in such a time that this is possible.

Thank you for hanging in there with us. Please pray for the work in Indonesia and also for Elaine who has been struggling with something upper respiratory (not coronavirus 😊) for over a month.

Mark & Elaine



Lunch on the last day of training with some of our SE Asia staff on my last trip