

Dear **Faithful Friends** and **Prayer Partners**,

April 2021

Greetings to you all in our Lord's most precious Name! We trust that you all are safe in the midst of these troublous and confusing times. We praise and thank the Lord that He has kept us safe and continues to provide for our needs as we try to weather this current situation.

We are still here in our home in Baguio city. This continues to be our longest stay in our city since we decided to be in full-time ministry more than 33 years ago. This pandemic thing has really messed up our ministry plans for Cambodia. We have been out of Cambodia for more than a year now and we are aching to be back as soon as we could. We just got an official Letter of Invitation from one of our ministry partners in Cambodia and we are hoping to be able to acquire new entry visas. We are praying that airline flights between the Philippines and Cambodia will be open for us. We hear of new restrictions and requirements for incoming expats such as mandatory vaccines, but we are not yet sure about these. Please help pray that whatever the requirements will be that we will be able to comply conveniently and safely. We really long to be back with our people, our ministry and family in Cambodia.

We are thankful to the Lord for our Assistant Pastors at **Grace Baptist Church - Anlong K'ngan**, Preacher **Mien** and Preacher **Vanna** for holding the fort tenaciously in our absence. After being told that there are lockdowns, curfews and prohibitions for gatherings, I purposely did not try to give specific instructions on how they are supposed to navigate around these hurdles. They still held three full church services weekly and continued to contact church members who are unable to attend services through calls and text messages. Of course, not having the usual ease and freedom to move around is a big inconvenience for everyone. Please continue to pray for the safety of our people and that the restrictions will not discourage new believers and young Christians.

I regret to inform you all that the **Graduation Ceremony** for the **6** graduating students for school year **2019-2020** at **Cambodia Baptist Bible College** that was scheduled for March 8, 2021 was cancelled indefinitely because of the lockdowns. Our fellow missionaries and pastors involved with CBBC are to be commended for conducting school guerilla fashion. It could be frustrating to start teaching, gain some momentum, then abruptly stop and wait on when to be able to continue. Some of our students and teachers are not familiar and comfortable with online teaching and so they have to wait for lockdowns to be lifted for them to be able to resume their classes. Other than the financial needs of CBBC, our teachers and students need your prayers to keep on in these most challenging situations.

We cannot praise the Lord enough for His safe-keeping for all our children and staff at **Power of Grace Children's Home**. Motivating children to go to school when they don't feel like going school and keeping them in the Home when they are not supposed to be out is perhaps the most difficult part of the job for our staff at the Children's Home. As we have mentioned in our previous prayer letter, this part of our ministry is heaviest in our hearts as we feel so helpless being unable to be with the children who are totally dependent upon us for all their needs and specially needing our leadership and guidance. We really covet your prayers for the safety of everyone at Power of Grace Children's Home and for patience and wisdom for our staff.

While protocols vary from city to city and province to province here in the Philippines, we are still thankful for the opportunity to visit some of our partner churches, many of them we have never seen for more than 10 years. We shall continue to visit our churches here as doors remain to be open. We welcome the opportunity and privilege to promote missions awareness and enlist partnerships for the cause of the Gospel.

Again, please keep us in your prayers as we wait for the Lord's perfect timing for us to be back in Cambodia. The Lord is using us here despite this pandemic, but we know that His plan is for us to continue serving Him among the Cambodian people. We sincerely appreciate your prayers and support for us through these difficult times. **We pray that the Lord will greatly bless you for not giving up on us and our partnership in this ministry.**

Yours for Cambodian souls,

Mike and Daisy Valdez

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July 2021

Dear **Faithful Friends** and **Prayer Partners**,

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. (II Cor. 1:3-4)

We pray and trust that you all are in good health and safe through all these difficult times.

We were thinking that this email update to everyone would be written from Cambodia but things do not always work the way we want them to.

We were booked to fly back to Cambodia last June 24 but I got very sick about 10 days prior to that. With some frustration, we had to reschedule our flight to July 2. As a pre-flight requirement, we had to do swab tests for COVID 19 last July 1. When results came out both Daisy and myself tested positive. We really felt quite devastated with the results as we have been aching to go back to Cambodia but we know that everything is in the Lord's hand.

As a health precaution by our local government doctors, we are required to do home isolation quarantine for 14 days. Something more convenient than having to go to a government facility for isolation. So we are still very blessed! We are not badly ill. We are able to move around normally but can only stay in the second floor of our house as per protocol requirements. Please help pray that after we have completed our isolation that we would be cleared from COVID19 so that we can rebook our tickets and fly to Cambodia.

Grace Baptist Church – Anlong K'ngan in Phnom Penh is doing fine. We are very thankful that none of our people have been severely afflicted with COVID. Services are still held regularly but attendance has been affected with some of the brethren being unable to attend church due to lockdowns in their community. Our preachers are doing great in carrying on the ministry during these tough times.

We are very thankful to the Lord that all our children at **Power of Grace** are safe and well. Our staff are really doing a good job in keeping things running smoothly in the Home. Some housekeeping and maintenance chores are badly needed but they have decided to push these back until our return.

We praise the Lord that despite intermittent lockdowns **Academy International Cambodia** was able to finish school year 2020-2021. This school year must have been the most stressful and most challenging year for our school staff. However, all of us have proven once and again that **Christ is indeed sufficient** for all His servants in their most needy times and seasons. Kudos to all our staff at **AIC!**

Thank you all very much for your fervent prayers and generosity in helping with our needs and the needs of the ministries we do in Cambodia.

Yours for Cambodian souls,

Mike and Daisy Valdez

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