

Reflections from Wayne

Jesus Calls

Jesus calls us to follow him. Recently I was reading a daily reflection (Utmost for His Highest) and I was reminded that our call is primarily to follow a person and not a cause. As I respond to Jesus daily, he calls me to be involved in his mission. Therefore, we are called into a relationship with Jesus and in the process he calls us to be involved in his mission in our world – not the other way around. I have found that my eagerness to leave for the Philippines can easily distract me from the call of Jesus each day. For example, a senior lady had constantly been returning to London Drugs because she was so frustrated with trying to operate the LCD TV she had purchased from me. After some prayer, I sensed the Lord saying to me why don't you pray with her since she said she told you she is a Catholic. So I did. A week later she told me the problem was weak batteries on her Shaw remote.

Encouragement at the workplace

I have been encouraged to see developments in my relationships at work. Recently, my friendship with David has deepened as I have had opportunities to drive him home after work. We were able to talk about our faith as well as discuss Scripture. As I pulled over to drop him off one night I asked if I could pray for him and he said yes. When I had finished, he jumped in and prayed for me. I sensed I gained a spiritual brother. I am glad the Lord brought us together during our preparation for the Philippines since Dave is also a Filipino. We are now spurring each other on in our spiritual maturity by reflecting on Scripture together.

How is our partnership development coming along?

While I have experienced some anxiety in our partnership development, I have also been reenergized with hope and joy each time I share our story with churches and individuals. Whenever we show a video of Honest Hands and share some success stories of some of the graduates of Working Hands, my heart is often stirred afresh with compassion for the these students. As we continue to wait upon the Lord, he is renewing our strength.

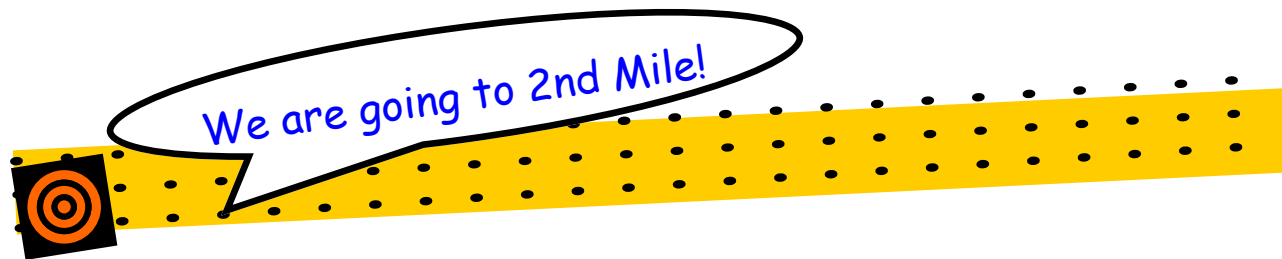
Reflections from Phoebe

Waiting on God

I have often heard the phrases – “God’s perfect timing, Wait on the Lord, In His time.” Yet, why is it that I find myself getting impatient as the months passed by and we are still here in Canada. Many people have emailed us saying, “I thought you’d be in the Philippines by now.” Or “Are you leaving on target in September?” Alas... I wish I could say yes but, no, we are still here in Burnaby. Not in Silang, Cavite. It has been a hard lesson learning to trust God. I was grumbling as to why we’re still here. I was getting envious of a couple who said they are leaving in the next month for Asia. God heard my grumbles all right, and gave me an attitude check in His unique ways. He brought to our paths friends who shared their wisdom regarding waiting. It took one couple nine years before ending up in the country they were originally praying for. I confessed to the couple leaving for Asia that I was envious of them, and the husband in return admitted too that he felt the same way while they were waiting. Through these people and in my own quiet times with God, He has taught me that it really is in His perfect timing, not our time table. So, we wait patiently.

While waiting...

God has brought friends who have blessed us in different ways. One friend from out of town phoned to say if she can stop by to see us. A short visit ended with us praying for each other. It was interesting the next morning, I read Romans 1: 11-12 “I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.” ***As we share at different churches; it has been a pleasure to meet folks whom I can glean wisdom from. Over lunch one Sunday, one lady shared nuggets of advice with almost every apprehension that I have about moving back to the Philippines. ***Last May 24th, my sister went in for a minor surgery to remove a benign cyst she had for years. It turned out to be a major surgery – as she was discovered to have ovarian cancer – Stage 3! What a shock! She is now going through chemotherapy. Praise God for her deep faith and trust – no complaints just continued praise and dependence in our loving Father.



Reflections from Jouren

Accepting the Trip

When my parents told me a couple years ago that we will be going to Philippines I was ok about it... then they started talking about possibly leaving in September, "WHAT!!! ALREADY!!!" So, I started to panic. I had to say bye to all my friends and family. I had so many things to do!!! Then I started telling God how I felt and he said that it was ok for us to go and then I started to calm down because we were in God's hands.

Here We Come Philippines!!!

Prayer Points:

Please pray with us...

...that we will truly seek the Lord as we prepare and wait for the right timing to leave for Philippines

...for more opportunities to share our ministry with churches and individuals

...that we may reach 100% of our monthly financial needs. At present, we are at 40%.

...for the ten young men going through the Honest Hands program (started in July), that they will be willing to learn and be molded by God through the mentors and leaders at 2nd Mile

...that God will heal Phoebe's sister for His greater glory

...for Wayne's family to come to know Christ

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Honest Hands?

It is a discipleship home that encourages and challenges young men from rough backgrounds to grow strong and deepen their faith in Jesus Christ, through a nine-month intensive discipleship and tutorial program.

Where do the young men come from?

Honest Hands works hand in hand with local churches and organizations. The pastors and Christian workers refer the students to attend Honest Hands discipleship camps. Up to twenty young men per year attend, and then ten of them are selected from the camps to attend the program.

So, do these young men know Jesus?

Yes. There are a lot of these young men who have heard and responded to the gospel. But, because a lot of them come from rough backgrounds, there is a strong pull to go back to their old lifestyle. The goal of Honest Hands is to mentor and train students to become disciples of Jesus.

What happens during the nine months?

Discipleship (Biblical) classes; tutorial programs for basic skills – reading, writing, math; counselling; community groups, physical exercise, some music classes

At Orcas Island with retired OMF missionaries



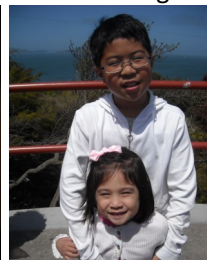
Mt. Shasta, California



Wedding in Sonoma, California



Jouren with cousin Abigail



Praise God for...

... the road trip to Sonoma, California—along the way visiting friends, appreciating God's creation

... a beautiful wedding of Phoebe's niece in July; fun time with family

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT. Philippians 1:3-5 "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

Sincerely, Wayne, Phoebe and Jouren