

Mentoring for Christ-centered Homes (MCCH)
2018 Christ's Resurrection Celebration Newsletter

Psalm 118:1 Give Thanks to the Lord, for He is Good; His Love Endures Forever.

Seeing God's Hand in MCCH Next Step

..continued from MCCH 2017 Thanksgiving Newsletter (see article at Website:
www.mentoring4Christ.net)

Tony Horsfall with his book *Rhythms of Grace* has shown us how to slow down to listen to God and develop a sharper focus daily. It was a divine appointment with Tony at OMF conference last November 2017 when he took Johnny under his wings of mentorship. Both Tony and Johnny share God's calling to see Christians passionately drawing closer to God's heart through biblical rest.



Arlene (left), is OMF member care staff who joins us regularly in prayer at our home



Angelo (right) led a lively campfire worship at OMF Diaspora Returnee's Conference



Tony Horsfall (left) was the plenary speaker at 2017 OMF Diaspora Returnee's Conference

Intimacy with God through Contemplation

Sun Koo and I went for a personal retreat to learn how to rest in God by knowing Him more deeply. We did this by practicing a spiritual exercise called *Lectio Divina*



(literally divine reading). During the retreat we took a few days off to enjoy long periods of solitude, silence and contemplation to allow the Lord to speak to us through His Word. On my own I (Johnny) **read** aloud a short passage of Scripture then listen to which word or phrase that the Holy Spirit is calling my attention to. Next, I repeat aloud the word or phrase to **meditate** on what is God saying to me. I then take these thoughts and convert them into **prayer**. My prayer included thanking God for His intimate presence that brought refreshment and renewal to my soul. At times the Lord would prompt me to ask His forgiveness for not taking regular time to rest in His love. Lastly, we enter into **contemplation** by being opened to Him and by listening to Him.

Because our time of contemplation helped us to rest in God we made the commitment to continue this practice after we return home. Little did we realize that the Lord would use this experience to equip me to deal with having a most difficult time adjusting to jetlag when I returned home. This was compounded by burn out. This led to depression like I never have experienced before. At this time the Lord used Sun Koo and my daily joint contemplation to minister to my soul that is hungering for His presence and comfort. Now, from hindsight I thank the Lord for using this “dark valley” to find new hope in Him. Through the loving support and counsel from Sun Koo and mentors I was strengthened in my faith. All this reinforces my need to rest in Him so that I can cultivate my intimacy with Him. Secondly, in experiencing depression I am becoming more understanding of people who go through the difficult life transitions mid-life and senior years. This has motivated me to prepare for my shift to old age. During my trials my mentor gave me this encouraging message, “The Lord might be using this difficult time to call you to another phase in ministry.” When I first received this message I was eager to know what God has in store for me. I am beginning to catch a glimpse of what this new phase in ministry might look like. Because the Lord has enriched Sun Koo and my life by resting in Him we are passionate about helping others who are in front line ministries, who like us, have neglected to rest in God this as part of their spiritual journey. This summer MCCH plans to conduct several weekend couples’ retreat to help participants experience rest in God. May the Lord use these get-away to refresh and revitalize their soul and may their love for the Lord, be rekindled. When this happens I believe love will overflow from them and to their family, church, community and marketplace for God’s glory!

Spring 2018

What came out of sabbatical year for Dick and Donna Andrews are these three “m” words? The three “m” words the Lord used to impress upon Dick's heart are messages, memoires and mentoring. In this season of their lives, both Dick and Donna felt called by the Lord to walk alongside others to help them enjoy biblical rest, be renewed for greater fruitfulness and experience a balance life.

Summer 2018

Together with Dick and Donna, our mentors and mentoring partners, we are seeking the Lord’s guidance in finding biblical rest in our busy lifestyle. Pray for MCCH’s plan to offer guided retreats to help couples draw closer to God by resting in Him.

Dick and Donna Andrews
Sabbatical Support Group



2018 Highlights of Mission Experience

"Go Go Gospel" in Philippines



Pastor Paul Tuck from Canada brought messages to seekers, servant team and pastors who came from various islands. Over 30 ministers were edified by his relevant and powerful messages shared at the training conducted in the island of Panay. He, together with pastors and servant teams went out to reach students, teachers and school principal for Christ at Guimbal's public high schools.

Up on the mountain, down by the valley messengers of the gospel encounter great oppositions in rural areas that we visited.

Sun Koo motivated a Christian school owner to start influencing parents for Christ. In response, she was so happy and made the commitment to get it started. May the vision to save souls for Christ keep the outreach going.



Over half of the number of the ninety male inmates made the profession of faith in Christ and accepted God's forgiveness for their sins. The Lord allowed Sun Koo to lead an inmate, a fifty-year-old Chinese man, to live in daily dependence on God's grace. He used to be a student at a Christian high school in Manila.

Pastor Tuck helped Christian Police chief and policemen wrestle with the topic of granting justice or mercy to a law offender. Very stimulating discussion!

Andrea Gicana demonstrated faith in action when she celebrated her 60th birthday by inviting over 300 people from the community. The celebration took the whole day. It included worship songs, preaching from God's word, testimonies and programs. We thank God for Pastor Lemwell Gesulgon of a local Baptist church and his team for being on fire for Christ.



Guimbal Baptist Serving Team at Andrea's 60th Birthday Celebration



Saturday Children Ministry



Aida Gicana while working as a domestic helper for Sun Koo's family in the Philippines, came to Christ in 1974.

Now with her siblings in Toronto they travel back and forth to saturate their hometown with the gospel in the island of Panay. 4 Sisters

- Aida (on the very left)*
- Norlita (at the center back row)*
- Andrea (on the first row left)*
- Norma (on the very right, first row)*



Vision continues... *Winning Souls for Christ*
The siblings supported their youngest sister, Norlita to receive her Christian Education degree in 1993. Prior to her migration to Canada, she established a kindergarten under Pastor Lemwell Gesulgon, which is now under construction to expand the ministry of Christian Education.



Manila Mentoring for Pastors and Wives

Through the help of a seminary in the Philippines we were privileged to mentor five pastors and their wives in Manila. Here are some of the highlights of our mentoring.

- The main focus was on building Christ-centered homes by using transforming leadership principles used by Jesus to disciple the Twelve.
- Doing this helps them to address their fear of failure in parenting; being young in age, cross-cultural challenge of adjusting to the Philippine culture while retaining the Chinese language and heritage should they return home to China
- Through personal coaching time with individual couples they openly share about their struggles as pastors for rarely being home to be with their children during the evenings due to ministry commitment. Not to mention their children spending long hours during the week for classes and after school tutoring.
- Pray that these pastor and wife couples will take time for rest and recreation. May they mutually support each other and find mentors who model a healthy balance between family and ministry.
- After returning Johnny has reached out to the pastors to encourage and support them in prayer. A pastor have asked for resources on how to develop a Christ-centered culture at his church



Thanks to Bible Seminary of the Phils. (BSOP) President Joseph Shao & his wife, Rosa (couple on the right) for inviting pastors and their wives to be mentoring on how to build Christ-centered homes by following Christ's leadership principles. Philip & Joyce Co (on the left) are BSOP faculty.

MCCH: Our Next Steps

The Blessing of Discipleship

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:29, 30)

Please share with us your personal updates and prayer requests.

A blessed celebration of Christ's resurrection to you!

Johnny and Sun Koo TO

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