

**FEBRUARY 2020** 

Dear Praying Friends and Faithful Partners,

"But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but <u>one thing</u> is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her." Luke 10: 41-42

In last month's Newsletter, I mentioned Paul's "One thing" – that is to forget what is behind, straining to what lies ahead, pressing on toward the goal to win the prize of God's heavenly calling in Christ Jesus. His focus was pursuing God's purpose for His life – making Him his priority – His One thing. What was Mary's one thing? It was to sit at Jesus' feet and pursue intimacy with Him through spending time with Him, listening to His Word. Spending time with Jesus includes praying, getting to know Him better and experiencing Him in our lives. As we spend time with Him, we get to know Him, and become like Him, act like Him and manifest Him in our lives.

**GUAM.** It is amazing how years just go so fast. It has been 33 years now since I started serving with PMA! "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." – Psalm 73:26 I look back at the faithfulness and grace of the Lord and indeed I have tasted His goodness in the land of the living. I am truly thankful and praise Him that He called me to serve Him with PMA – there are no regrets as I look unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of my faith! To Him be glory forever!

**PHILIPPINES.** PMF Guinaygayan celebrated its third year anniversary. After the typhoon last December, the congregation got together to repair their roof and the sides of the church so that they could continue to have a place to meet for worship and prayer. We are awaiting the completion of the property documents so that we can construct a solid building that would not be easily destroyed by any typhoon. Please pray for the documents and for God's provision to construct a church building and a parsonage. We trust He is able!

**BAHAY KALINGA ORPHANAGE, NAUJAN, OR. MINDORO** – Praise God, the Lord answered our prayers! Four of our children have been declared legally available for adoption. One child is 7 years old and we may have challenges finding a family who would want to adopt her. Please pray! We also thank God for the smooth process of international adoption on one of our children by a couple from Netherlands.. ~ Jeny Flores-Gutierrez

**PALAU.** We continue to search for a full time Pastor for our PMF church in Palau. In the meantime, our PMF church elders have continued to lead the church, teach, preach and be accountable for the ministry in Palau. With a complete dependency on God, the prayer meeting has been well-attended as each person seeks to worship, encourage and intercede for one another. Please continue to pray for our need in Palau – indeed, the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few – pray for the Lord of the Harvest to raise a Pastor to serve in Palau.

**YAP, MICRONESIA. Pastor Petrus** shares: "I will be focusing on helping Bruce and Pius. We will be meeting regularly every week for prayer and studying the Bible." The home Bible studies continue and Pastor Petrus, Bruce and Pius each have a home that they are in charge of teaching, growing, discipling and edifying. Please pray that those attending the Bible studies would grow in their faith and also desire to reach others for Christ.

**POHNPEI, MICRONESIA.** Just yesterday I spoke at the service and burial for a 15-year-old teen named Eddie. He died suddenly of heart failure due to a hole in his heart. 3- years- ago this young man made a decision for Christ at our Vacation Bible School. He received a certificate to commemorate the day of his most important decision. After the service, his mother shared with me that she had indescribable peace something she hadn't experienced at other funerals before. She shared that she knew that her son was a born again Christian that he is in heaven and that the Lord will take care of him now. "We don't know why things happen the way they do," I shared, "But we do know that when we don't understand God's purposes, we can hang on to His promises." "When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am." John 14:3 ~ **Nob Kalau** 

They say that we become who we hang out with. That is why my siblings and I were admonished by my parents to choose our friends wisely - as we could become like them, if we were not careful. Mary chose wisely by sitting at Jesus' feet and Jesus commended her for it. Martha was busy serving the Lord, however, she was distracted, and complained to Jesus, she had lost sight of why she was serving. In the end, it is not the "doing" that is important, but "being" the person God wants us to be - so we can diligently serve Him. In John 12:1,2 - Jesus visited His friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus 6 days before His crucifixion. This time one sees Martha serving – but she is not distracted nor complaining – she is serving the Lord- her way of worshiping Him. The siblings Lazarus, Mary and Martha, experienced first-hand the reality of who Jesus is - they knew who He was - the Resurrection and Life. When we truly know who Jesus is, our response to life, circumstance and to people around us will always be in accordance to how Jesus will respond. As we follow God's command of "going into all the world to preach the Gospel"... it is very important that we know Him so that we are able to make Him known. Thank you dear partners for enabling us to press on with our mission of "Knowing Him and Making Him Known." God bless you more!

In Him we live and move and have our being,

Melinda R. Espinosa CFO/Administrator