

Dear Pastor, Church Family & Friends;

March-May 2020

Please forgive the tardiness of our Newsletter. To say things of changed over the past few months would be an understatement. Thank God, Jesus never changes, " The same yesterday, today, and forever. " Although not always easy, we need to stay focused with a heart of worship. " In the place of worship, the heart is lifted out of the temporal and into the eternal. "

Like most around the world, we have experienced a quarantine lock-down with various restrictions. I hesitate to give much attention to that which has engulfed our lively-hood, so I will not write much about it. Only this catch phrase, "SOCIAL DISTANCING" which only reminds me to be careful of "SPIRITUAL DISTANCING". Our Church Family like most have been tested in their faith. Like the parable of the sower and the seed, good ground produces good fruit. More than ever we desire to see the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. These past few months have definitely been a reflection of God working in us, both to will, and do of His good pleasure.

We began gathering for Church Services sooner than most. Our activities are slowly and deliberately returning. The members are a bit sluggish which is not surprising. I preached this last Sunday from the The Epistle of third John and posed the question, "WHAT WOULD MY CHURCH BE, IF EVERY MEMBER WERE JUST LIKE ME?" Of course, in that letter we find good and bad examples. If you're inclined to read the whole passage, you can distinguish for yourself between the two. My immediate focus was the encouragement to walk in truth, serve faithfully, and love unconditionally in and out of the Church House. Verse six reads... "WHICH HAVE BORNE WITNESS OF THY CHARITY BEFORE THE CHURCH: WHOM IF THOU (GAIUS) BRING FORWARD ON THEIR JOURNEY AFTER A GODLY SORT, THOU SHALT DO WELL." If ever there was a directive given to a Pastor, Missionary, or Church Planter for encouragement in the right direction this would be it.

So, with purpose of heart we press forward, but not without prayer. Please pray with us for a young teen girl named Grace. She will follow the Lord in believer's baptism on June 13th. And for the recovery of our young people who have fallen away during the Covid-19 transition. We are also asking prayers for the transitioning of a Filipino Pastor by 2021, and a survey of Negros Province for a new Church Plant. God's timing is perfect in all of these matters. So that we are not recklessly premature, but faithfully and prayerfully preparing.

In closing you should know that our hearts and prayers are with you. Thanking God almost daily that we continue together until now. [Please visit our Facebook Page... Tagumpay Fundamental Baptist Church for some recent pictures & videos]

Your Missionaries for Jesus,
The Shaffer Family