



Taking the **Light** to Leyte

John, Christi, Joshua, Emily & Jacob Wynn

April 2021

Dear Pastor & Praying Friends,

“...When my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I..” (Psalm 61:1-3) The past few months have been overwhelming to us, but God has been a rock that we have leaned upon and He has seen us through! As many of you know by now, my dad, Howard Wynn, who served as a missionary here in the Philippines for 41 years was graduated to Glory on February 6th. Let me explain what has transpired so far this year.

We were excited for the start of 2021, as I was to perform the wedding on January 5th of one of our young adult couples that feel called to Taiwan. This is one of Joshua’s best friends, and he was excited as well to be a groomsman for the first time. But the weekend before, Christi and the boys had cough and congestion and so we decided to have them tested for the Covid 19 Virus to be sure that they were negative and would not be passing anything around at the wedding. On Monday, the 4th, a lady from our barangay (neighborhood) showed up at our gate and said Christi had tested positive and would be taken immediately to a facility to be isolated alone from the rest of us. The normal protocol here was to be put in this facility for 14 days. We asked if she could just stay here at the house since we had already been around one another, but they would not allow it. Because of her testing positive, all of the rest of us were quarantined here to the house for the next 2 weeks. We all missed the wedding, but my dad was able to perform it in my absence. They only made Christi stay in the facility for a week, but it was a difficult time for all of us. We were finally able to get Joshua out of quarantine and back to the States to college, just a few days late for classes. We realize now that God was giving Joshua extra time here, to spend time with his grandfather who would be gone within just a few weeks.

At the end of January, all of us except for Emily, including my parents, began having Covid symptoms. We eventually took dad to the hospital, and we prayed fervently for the Lord to heal him. God answered our prayers of healing dad, just not in the way we expected. My mom had been with him at the hospital and it was an ordeal to get them to allow my mom, who also had tested positive to come back to her house where I could stay with her for another 14-day quarantine. Christi and the kids were quarantined to our house, and I stayed with mom. I must admit, there were some frightening days trying to make sure mom was on the mend from the virus and grieving the loss of my dad and my mentor. Our church was hurting, but we could not be together!!! The services had to go online, as several others in the church had also gotten sick. They were some difficult days, but God was faithful, and His words brought comfort like nothing else could. Our church people were amazing, bringing us food, groceries, medicines, and taking care of burying my father, which we could not be a part of. We were finally able to be together again as a family, and my mom came to live with us. She is doing very well, but we are trying now to get my sister, Angela, here to take my mom back for much needed checkups. She needs cataract surgery, and she is going on her 17th year with Parkinson’s Disease and needs to see her doctor in the States. The country has been closed to foreigners coming in on only a tourist visa, but just today we were given an exemption for Angela to enter the country, now she is waiting on the Philippine Embassy there in the States to issue her a visa.

As we stated in our last prayer letter, we were in the middle of trying to purchase a piece of property in Dulag as well. We thank the Lord that all of the needed funds came in for that!!! We are now meeting in our new building and making repairs as we go. We are thankful for many visitors already that have come since transferring to the new place. Our people are excited to finally have their own place, and have come several times to help with cleaning, painting, etc. We have gotten a well dug, inside walls that had termites torn down, and some much needed clean up and painting done. The next big project is to put up a perimeter fence around the property. Christi saw some of the young people, that live right next to the property, outside one Sunday and invited

them to come to our services. Since then, every Sunday those 4 young ladies and 1 one young man have been faithfully attending the services.

My dad was the missionary pastor of the main church in Tacloban, which also has a Christian school and our Bible college. Christi and I have worked in this ministry all along with teaching in the Bible college and then taking these young men out to help them start churches. Because of my dad passing away, I am now overseeing this ministry, which normally I only did when he was on furlough. We are still involved in the ministry in Dulag as well; but we do have a young couple, J.D and Jeanny Rose Pelino, who have been helping us in this ministry and have begun taking a bigger responsibility in this ministry. J.D has been going with some of the Bible college students on Wednesday nights to conduct the services in Dulag, while I handle the services in Tacloban.

About two weeks after my dad passed away, one of our young mothers, Pamela Jane, who has grown up in our church, passed away as well. Both her family and her husband's family are members of the church. And so the Lord allowed us to immediately put into practice 2 Corinthians 1: 3,4 that tells us about comforting one another as we have been comforted. In spite of the pain and loss, we already had our missions conference scheduled, and so we went ahead with that. We took up our faith promise commitments both in Tacloban and in Dulag and God allowed both ministries to increase in their commitment for 2021. We praise the Lord for the baptism of a married couple at the end of our missions conference and then 3 other adults coming for membership as well. We are so thankful for God's faithfulness to our people here, they have learned that even in difficult times like typhoons and pandemics if they will put God and His work first place, He will supply all their needs! And He has!!!

We are allowed to hold services here, but we must observe social distancing and the wearing of face mask and face shield anytime you leave your home! We have been able to have normal monthly activities even with these stipulations and our people love being together once again! I was able to have a part once again at the military camp in a building dedication. Unfortunately, we have not been able to hold our annual youth camps but are hoping to do something later in the summer. We have been able to get some work done at Camp Victory in putting tiles in both the men's and ladies' dormitories.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support, we have felt God's comfort and peace in these difficult times!

By His Grace,

John & Christi Wynn



Baptisms



Dulag Baptism



Military Camp