

MASON PRAYER LETTER

SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

Contact info: jonedwardmason@gmail.com ; 864-329-5051

kristimichellemason@gmail.com

We thank the Lord for another month in which He has guided our steps as we acknowledge Him. It has been a month of pondering the next steps in the ministry.

One of the privileges of being a Christian is listening to Godly music. Many times when various trials come our way, or we hear bad news, or we experience some discouragement in the ministry, it is such a blessing to be able to find music that glorifies our God and Savior, and exalts His holiness. These songs lift our spirits and point us to our Savior.

This month has been interesting in that the community is getting used to the idea that we are here to stay. As a result, there has been good things and some sad things that have happened. One of the good things that have happened is that we have a whole new group of children coming to church that did not come before. For about three Sunday's there are 28 that have been coming. This has been quite challenging because many of these do not attend church and are quite unruly. We decided to change our lessons and teach the Wordless Book again, to share the basic truth of the gospel. We will finish up this next week and are praying that several of the older ones will understand and be ready to repent and trust in Jesus. Please pray for Ella, Yllana, Anthony, and Perlla. These seem to be listening intently to the lessons and understanding what is being taught.

In the main service, we have been doing a series on the life of the Patriarchs in the morning. During the evening service, we have been doing a series on true change using Jim Berg's book, "Changed into His Image." The first six lessons have been eye-opening and sobering as we realize how rebellious we really are and how much we truly desire our own ways. Many times, we act like Nebuchadnezzar and pretend that we don't need God. And yet, we are heavily dependent on Him. It is a blessing to focus on strengthening this faithful group.

We are continuing to be faithful in soul-winning even though we are met with cold shoulders in Dumalneg. It is sometimes like some have decided that since we are still here, they will pretend we are not here and avoid us. On Thursdays, Kristi has been trying to visit the mothers of the new children who have been coming. We are praying that these visits will result in the gospel seed being planted. On Saturday, we take the teens out soul-winning. We have been going to the next barangay as they are more open. One of the groups has been holding a Bible Club faithfully there. The others have been trying to visit with their classmates or just speaking with whomever is available. Although we have had many good opportunities to share the gospel completely, we have not had any to trust in Christ. Charley Mar and Emily have been following up with some of her old classmates and one of them has requested some more Bible studies. So we praise the Lord for these opportunities. Please pray for a Manong Manzio. He is the father of Amarie, a junior high young lady who is very faithful. He has been assisting us as we do construction at the church. He is a member of the Lamplighter pantheistic group. He has attended church one time, and has heard the gospel at least three times. Please pray that God will work in his heart to help him see his lost condition. Pray also for Jeuel's father and mother. I have had the opportunity to speak with him multiple time. His answer is always the same. He laughs and says, "I was born this way, I'll die this way." He mother attends a Pentecostal church and her salvation is in question as she believes water baptism is necessary to wash away our sins.

Please continue to pray for the situation with Francheska. We praise the Lord that she is able to fellowship with the other girls from church at their school. However, the other students are trying desperately to win her back to what she used to do before she was saved. She has been able to make a stand. But, her mother is against anything Biblical, and pushes her to do things she should not do. Any messages via Facebook

would encourage her as she struggles with these challenges.

Ercie is being challenged as she studies at Bible School. God has been teaching her how to completely trust in Him for everything. She has been recently struggling with some health issues. She had some tests done and hopefully these will reveal what she needs to do. Please pray for her parents. She came back for a short visit hoping they would be more open. But sadly, they were angrier. Please also pray that the Philippines Embassy in Vietnam would process her papers that she needs.

Lord willing we will be processing our new visa within the next two weeks. The Lord answered a specific prayer request regarding some paperwork. And we praise Him for that. Please pray for the provision for the visa. Our agent informed us of the process and there are some additional costs we were not expecting. Please also pray that interview will be successful.

Our family is doing well. This is our rainy season, so the temperature fluctuates from hot to cooler constantly. Kayla and Nathaniel have been struggling with cold and sinus issues. Hudson just celebrated his 13th birthday. And yes, he does have FB now, and he would like some friends. This is a big prayer request for us. He does not have any boys his age in the church. The parents hinder them from coming. Kristi still has days that seem to smack her down. We are still not sure of what is going on. However, God's grace has been sufficient and He has been strengthening her spiritually.

God is truly good and merciful.