

January 5, 2012

Dear brethren;

It is so good to watch the first year seminary students, 8 young men, group themselves into 2 groups, (there's a third group comprising their wives), discussing about the Word of God as a primary means of grace in the believer's life. I have to send them as discussion groups as I felt my body can't bear to continue teaching for the morning. (I have been teaching the class since Tuesday, January 2, up to today, at 7 hours a day.) The effects of the internal hemorrhage I experienced on December 5 that brought me in the hospital for 5 days, and the endoscopy procedures done to me on December 6 and 21 are bearing on my failing body. Even the blood transfusion had been supplemented and sustained by iron vitamins but still can feel body imbalance and weakness. But life must continue. Cannot bear not to teach God's Word and not be involved in the training of young men for ministry.

I apologize that I haven't communicated to you well enough especially during Christmas holidays. I wasn't able to attend our Pastor's Conference on December 6-9 as I was in the hospital in Butuan City, 270 kilometers Northeast from where the seminary is. My esophageal varicoses exploded again, like what happened almost 2 years ago, and the doctors also found my large intestines with many ulcers. Most of my days the rest of December were spent in bed and in our house and doctor's visits. All the kids came home and many of my wife's siblings came to visit. God has been very gracious to me and Fely, raising us back from our illnesses. Many of you have prayed and were used by the Lord to provide for the hospital needs. We are truly grateful.

There were about 150 Pastors who attended the Conference in spite of difficult financial times. What a blessing to have Pastor Steve Fernandez of CBC Vallejo and Pastor Doug Thompson from Middletown Church in California preaching and teaching in the Conference. My son Amiel also preached for me and another young pastor Ronie Frias. The work of the Lord is in no way dependent on me. Young pastors of Sola Gratia took on the reins in my absence and did it well. What a joy in the Lord to see them mature and taking leadership roles so effectively. Time for me to rest? God knows.

The four seminary graduates are now on their way to their new missionary assignments. Pastor Joselito Sugian and family are now in Tagum, Davao to start a church. Pastor Chito Salazar is assisting him as the later is still waiting for their daughter to finish school this April and then they will proceed to Lanao del Norte, a predominantly Muslim province to do church planting too. Pastor Jordan Mendoza and wife arrived yesterday in the mountain Town of Lantapan, Bukidnon province to continue their church planting ministry and Pastor Larry Prieto and family will take the place of Amiel in Iligan City as he will be studying the seminary fulltime this February. Praise the Lord for these young men with their families taking on the call of God to "go" literally by faith. Please include them in your prayers. Pray that we will be able to raise their monthly support in the amount of \$250 per month. They also needed motorcycles that will cost us \$1700 each.

The tragedy that struck Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City hit the news since the incident happened December 16. More than a thousand lives were lost not to mention the destruction of properties. Many Christians lost their homes and belongings. Graciously no one from Sola Gratia Churches was among the casualties. (We were at first apprehensive about one family from CBC Cagayan de Oro whom we were not able to locate for 4 days only to find out that that they were able to run for their lives when the flood struck their house. They seek refuge in a friend's home away from the devastation. We were not able to contact them as they lost their cellphone in the flood. For weeks the brethren supplied drinking water to the affected brethren as there was practically no potable water available. The church family were ready to help those in need. The only things we cannot do is the sustainable provision of their food and the rebuilding of their lost houses. The government made promises they will give them relocation and build them shelters but we have yet to see it done. Please pray for these dear brothers to be able to recover what they lost in the flood.

The Lord Jesus Christ is in control of everything and is infinitely glorious. Yes, it is already 2012. We are one more year closer to His coming again. There's so many things yet to be done. We must be found faithful to The Master even to the end...to the last breath.

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."
Romans 13:12-14.

In Christ alone,

Nonilo Sanchez and family

PS. I have just talk to my doctor a minute ago and he told me that I have to undergo another endoscopy procedure 3 months from now. Please do include me in your prayers. Likewise, I also received an email from Exalting Christ Ministries informing me that we only have \$800 in our Sola Gratia account for this month of January. I advice them not to send it but wait until there's enough for the workers support or for the whole ministry. God will surely provide.

