

Praise and Prayer Update - Nilo Sanchez

February 22, 2010

Dearly beloved brethren;

Greetings in the most precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

My heart was filled with excitement that once I saw my diabetologist, Dr. Chang, at Cagayan de Oro, then we can trace our way back to the seminary which is 420 kilometers away last Tuesday, February 16. But to my dismay, an announcement was posted outside his clinic that he was out of town beginning that day to an extended date. I can't wait for the possible worsening of the complications of my diabetes to my internal bleeding. We decided to see another specialist's but She's in Surigao City , almost 350 kilometers from CDO. (But it is along the way to seminary so we arranged to go there.) Our Pastor's in the area tried to secure for an appointment for me. One of those things happened again: the brakes of our vehicle stocked-up. We were obliged to bring it to the repair center and for two long days, so frustrating for me and two Pastors which escorted me, we have to sit and wait for the problem to be repaired.

Friday, February 19, we stopped at the house of Pastor Nick Dahilan, one of our worker in the area of Surigao del Norte. I felt so tired that all I wanted to do is to see the doctor and go home to my wife and seminary family. But I got a wonderful encouragement from the Lord. Two men were introduced to me, whose families have for one month been coming to Community Bible Church . They were so glad to see me as if meeting an old friend. Later I learned that they were listening to my preaching in the radio every day and God used it to bring them and their families to Himself. I also went to see a new batch of students to our Mobile School , 10 of them, to thank them for their prayers. What a blessing to know you have a family in the Lord who supports you before His throne of grace!

Dra. Jao confirmed what Dr. Gambi had already told me; that my oral medicines for diabetes actually have made my liver problem even worst. So absolutely am advised to stop using glibenclamide and metformen. Instead Dra. Jao prescribed Lantose insulin, 20 units every day. But my medications for liver and blood pressure will continue to be taken as prescribed. This means an extra \$200 every month for medicines (including Fely's maintenance for her blood pressure problem and enlarged heart). We are trusting the Lord to provide for this particular need. We are ever grateful He enlisted us in His ministry.

Come March 2, I will be back to Butuan Doctors hospital for further "tying down" of abnormal esophangial varicoses. I will undergo another endoscopy with Dr. Gambi. The good doctor is confident that after this "operation", potential internal bleeding in the future will diminish or totally eradicated. I trust the Lord to undertake restoration of my health for His glory. He is sovereign and merciful.

Some of you been asking how you can help? Please consider not us but the whole ministry. We needed your continual prayers for the workers aggressive thrust to new areas in evangelism and church planting. That as God grants us opportunities to preach/teach His Word either in homes and street corners, or public squares, either amongst the tribal peoples and or City dwellers, wherever we are, we can placard Christ with passion and boldness. That we be true to our calling to the last breath.

Likewise, consider giving more toward the work as workers and their families needed financial support. Be assured, we have learned to be content in whatever circumstances we are in. We have learned the discipline of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and that of suffering need. Ultimately God is our sufficiency and our overpowering satisfaction in life.

Praying for you all,
Nonilo M. Sanchez

Praise and Prayer Update - Nilo Sanchez

February 16, 2010

Dear Brethren;

Psalm 119:71, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes." Job 14: 5, "Since his days are determined the number of his months is with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass."

As I was contemplating on the events of the last 3 days in our lives, these verses were brought to mind very clearly. God isn't done with me yet. There is more things to pursue by His grace for His glory that I can't just wait idle even in the hospital ward. I started talking to the other patients and shared from the Scriptures about God's plan and purposes. A school teacher with kidney and heart problem, a young male nurse with dengue fever, a farmer with severe diabetes, and to my surprise a "former pastor" of Free Methodist Church . They were drinking in the Word and have seen a new light that I believed helped them to see through their circumstances to the Lord Jesus. Leaving them was a bit hard as I am beginning to love them as a "new congregation".

I will be seeing my diabetologist this morning here in Cagayan de Oro. Hopefully I will be on my way back to the seminary this afternoon and be with my dear wife and "family".

A little boy, son of the pastor driving for me, called me through the phone. He lovingly assured me he and his younger brother were praying for me. Then he asked me, why are you sick? I told him I am getting old. I can hear him shouted to the others in the house, "tatay Nilo is already old! He is already old." Who cannot smile for that? It's only when the hospital bill came that my smile stopped.

Dr. Gambi said I have to come back for another round of "endoscopy/treatment" after 15 days. He told me that he will do another "workout" to tie down those varicose veins that has the potential to burst anytime. Appreciate your prayers for speedy recovery and God's provisions for this hospital visits.

We have Bible Conferences scheduled this coming March 12-14 in Surigao City ; April 14 in South Cotabato ; and April 30-May 2 in Cagayan de Oro; so also the family camp coming April 21-23. Some people are teasing me I am more fortunate than Spurgeon. He had to be carried to the pulpit many times to preach/teach - I can avail of a wheelchair. How blessed I am then but felt disdainfully zero compared to that man of God.

Life is so short. Can't afford to wait it. He is so glorious can't help but declare Him to as many people as the Lord will bring us and or send us. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

In Christ alone,
Nonilo Sanchez

Praise and Prayer Update - Nilo Sanchez

February 14-15, 2010

(14th) Dear brethren, The ministry reports from the field is one of great encouragement. Opportunities for more Bible Studies and preaching and teaching the gospel have taken a new strength by the grace of God. Of course there are areas that seemed cold and dead but God is working.

I brought Fely to the Doctor in Iligan City to undergo general medical exams. They found that she had an enlarged heart (0.54) - no wonder she's easily tired and sometimes has hard breathing. She needed rest.

Then last Saturday I almost collapsed in the house. Just felt something snap inside me. Then I vomited blood and my blood sugar too shoots up to 358. I took some medicines to lower my blood sugar. (Our BP gauge is no longer working). A seminary student gave me a massage for it is like I am losing blood all over. In the morning, to our surprise, I spewed out dead blood. Then every time I look at my waste it's dead blood. This goes on the whole day yesterday, I wasn't able to preach. In the afternoon I already lost so much strength. Last night they rushed me here in Butuan City Doctor's Hospital. They have to transfuse blood and I will have an endoscopy 2 hours from now. They are running many tests. I felt a little rested but had to wait for their findings. (I did not let Fely come with me in that 3-hour drive to the hospital for she too might be too stressed.) Please pray that we be able to understand what the Lord is teaching us through this experience and I can go back soon to my students. Life indeed is short and there's no time to lose serving the Lord. Please pray for the gastroenterologist that will do examinations of me; that he be able to pinpoint the cause of the problem. Still this morning I am I excreting out dead blood. God is in control. How needy we all are and need your prayers.

(15th) Dear Pastor Steve and all the brethren,

Thanks for your many prayers. God is sustaining us through this experience. Dr. Gambi did the endoscopy to me this morning. They inserted like a cord with the lights on its tip to my mouth and down to my esophagus and to my intestines. At first they suspected ulcers that burst. To all our surprise, there were varicose veins all over my esophagus, which the doctor said shouldn't be there at all. From those veins come the eruptions and blood coming out. All those times I was conscious looking what is going on inside of me. They inserted a much bigger "cord" with a string in the middle and the doctor kind of catch the veins that exploded and tie them down. It stopped the bleeding but as it is only temporary solution to the problem. Those varicose veins grew out as stopped channels for the vitamins/nutrients that should go to my liver, which was greatly damaged by scars from schistosomiasis. (Remember my bout for it in 2005). They burst, as they cannot contain anymore-additional load. Blood transfusion is still going on even as I am writing this email. At least we already know what is wrong with this frail, decaying outer man. But the Lord is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Dr. Gambi is sending me to my diabetologist in Cagayan de Oro as he believed I have to stop using oral medicines for my diabetes. It complicates things. Insulin is the firm suggestion. So I will be injecting it again like before. We spent so much for the hospital bill. Medicines were always not available in the hospital but had to be purchased outside. Lord willing, we might be out of here tomorrow afternoon. We will proceed to Cagayan de Oro and see Dr. Chang Thursday and hopefully be home after that. There is so much more in life than brooding on our circumstances. Would God give me insight of the bigger picture to what He is accomplishing in and through our lives and be constantly enthralled of His glory. The Lord richly bless you all. In Christ, Nonilo.

PS. It was my brother's [Enrique] funeral this morning. I wasn't able to neither attend nor was Fely, only Kristine and her husband. Enrique wasn't a believer. He died by cardiac arrest.