



Sara Morris

MISSIONARY TO THE

PHILIPPINES

*That in all things He
might have the preeminence*
COLOSSIANS 1:18

Dear Praying Friends,

June 1, 2021

I was sitting in our faculty prayer meeting recently, via zoom of course, when this line of a prayer caught my attention: *"Lord, when we are discouraged, teach us to pray and be grateful."* It struck me because it seemed to sum up what the Lord has been teaching me in my own heart and life this past year. In fact, we were recently discussing in SS examples from Scripture of right and wrong ways to respond to discouragement. When the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they were discouraged because of the way, but their repeated response of complaining only brought God's judgment, while Moses' response of prayer always brought deliverance. Or the example of David who encouraged Himself in the Lord when he was facing circumstances much worse than any most of us have experienced. It seems obvious from Scripture how to respond, yet I have often found myself slow to learn like the Israelites! How often God allows challenges in our lives specifically to magnify Himself in our sight. Here are some truths that He has magnified in my eyes this past year.

God's grace is always sufficient: This past school year was full of challenges, yet God continually showed that His grace is sufficient in my weakness. I always look forward to the last day of the arranging and composition classes as we listen to the students completed compositions and hear testimonies of what the Lord taught them. One student shared how she decided to arrange the hymn "I Must Tell Jesus" as a constant reminder to her to run to the Lord in prayer. She had not been able to return home when the lockdown began last year and so had spent the school year locked down in Manila without much fellowship. But God's grace carried her through and also helped the rest of us to finish the school year strong.

God is always faithful: This is a truth the Lord brought to mind almost daily, though one evening, He made it particularly vivid. It was almost time for class, but I felt too drained to face another zoom class. I went outside for a quick walk before class started in an attempt to clear my mind. When I looked up, I saw a beautiful sunset just over the next field. It was like the Lord was saying, *You can trust me. I am always faithful, just like the Sun. I will never fail you nor forsake you.* It was just the encouragement I needed, and refreshed my spirit and strengthened my heart for my next class. A verse that has been special to me this past year is Jude 1:24 *"Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy . . ."* The Lord has repeatedly shown me that it is His faithfulness, not my own that has kept me serving Him online this year.



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God is always ready to forgive: In challenging times, it can be discouraging to see our repeated failures, so this truth about God's forgiveness has been an encouraging one. I was thrilled when a young lady from my SS class messaged me one week asking if she could share a testimony from her Bible reading. I was even more thrilled when she came to class with a 10 min powerpoint presentation! She had just finished reading the book of Judges and was struck by Israel's repeated pattern of failure and God's repeated forgiveness and deliverance to them every time they cried to Him. What an encouraging truth this is for us!

God is in complete control of all things: This is probably one of my favorite truths about God that I have run to over and over again. I was reading Psalm 10:18 in my Tagalog Bible recently, "That the man of earth may no more oppress." In the Tagalog Bible it is translated "may no more cause to fear." How much fear and uncertainty are in the world right now, and yet men of earth cannot cause us to fear when our minds are stayed on the One who is in complete control of all things.

Christ is coming again: My church family constantly remind me about this truth and the need to live in light of Christ's return. As they have been locked down and without in-person church fellowship for over 14 months, this is the truth that seems to keep them going. Now that school is over, I have enjoyed getting to attend some in-person services and enjoy face-to-face fellowship here in the States. But for them, though some Covid restrictions are beginning to lift in Manila, they still do not have a summer of fellowship to look forward to. **Please pray that the Lord would encourage their hearts, and that they would be motivated to live faithful and holy lives that are pleasing to our Lord.**

It has been very refreshing to be a part of the GFA missionary conference this week. The opportunity for in-person fellowship is something I will not be taking for granted this summer! Thank you so much for your faithful prayers for me and for the Philippines. May the Lord continue to bless you!

In Christ,
Sara Morris

Prayer Requests:

- The believers in Myanmar as they still face many dangers and uncertainty
- My church family in the Philippines to be faithful in their daily time with the Lord. It has been a blessing to have two of the children recently join my Bible reading accountability group
- Our Tagalog choral book project which we plan to release this fall. Please pray for wisdom as a co-worker and I continue to help students make revisions to their pieces
- The Covid and lockdown situation in the Philippines, and God's timing for the re-opening of the country and allowing me to return
- Continued wisdom for my online church ministry this summer
- Wisdom for preparations for the new school at BJMBC which will be online again beginning in early August