

FAITH IS THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMES THE WORLD!

Grace and Peace to you from the Philippines! Today is Friday, September 18, 2026. Our Bible reading today is 1st Thessalonians Chapter 3. This chapter reminds me of our house-church plant in Quezon province in the Philippines. The church is three hours away from our main mission church. When the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in 2020, travel restrictions prevented us from traveling due to Ahmie's illness, my age, and Savannah being a minor at the time.

I was not physically able to strengthen the newly established church for nearly five months. Concerned, I sent a team to encourage the new church family. When my team returned, they were excited and blessed. The young church had not only continued strong in the faith but had also grown spiritually.

The young pastor and his wife were much like Aquila and Priscilla in Acts 18. Pastor Arnel led the house church to create seven two-member teams that went from village to village three days each week, sharing the Gospel through Bible Storytelling. The team I sent was encouraged by the enthusiasm and zeal for the LORD of those young believers. We praise GOD for the sound faith of this young church.



In our reading today, the Apostle Paul sent young Timothy to check on the church in Thessalonica. (v.2) Paul feared that Satan might have disrupted the church by sending in false teachers. (v.5) That was his battle tactic even way back in the Garden of Eden with Eve. He caused her to doubt what GOD had said. (See Genesis 3.)

However, when Timothy returned, he brought a good report that the church was strong and growing, just like our house church in Quezon.

(v.6) Their success was due to faithful believers and Paul's team praying earnestly. (v.10)

As a missionary for more than 40 years, I have learned the importance of a strong prayer support base. Please remember to pray earnestly for your pastor, your church, and its mission outreach.

As the song goes, "Faith is the victory that overcomes the world."

GOD's Word says:

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

—1st John 5:4