

# A NEWSLETTER FROM SOLOMON & DEBORAH

## To Amazing Grace Fellowship

Merry Christmas to you all in Amazing Grace Fellowship!

Deborah and I wish you all a very blessed Christmas 2020 and a successful year 2021 to come. May the Lord bless you with Himself and every good thing to His glory.

It's been quite a while and we've been well since the latest update. The insomnia that tortured me for years has recently been gone as a miracle with unexpected treatment from an elderly man who used to be a medicine doctor in Chinese traditional medicine. Deborah's knees are now better a lot than that of several months ago after they were treated by an international hospital in here HCMC. with injection of some sort of lubricant for human knee. Our kids and grandkids are also doing excellent.



(Our Family In September)

China Virus has stolen this year (2020) at some sense, I think. The fact can be seen in our training ministry in here. While I could do the January Training normally the next one which was planned for March for two seminars had to be canceled because IBL Staff in US. couldn't come. Until now, 23 students who were planned for their Grand Graduation are still waiting for that and even now we still have no sign that we will be able to do it in next March.



(Our Pastoral Training In January)

And then I had to struggle also in making decision for August Training for 25 students due to several obstacles. First of all, the Local Government followed our activities so tight and under the fear of the

community affection of the China Virus they waned us not to do anything with more than 30 people partaken. Well, the class size is 25 but 3 students in Cambodia could not come due to the closure of the border between the two countries so we would not exceed the limit and I decided to go for the August Training. We did it successfully with mask on all people. We incurred no interference or fine from the Local Government but we still paid the cost: After the August Training accomplished the Local Government sent us a strict message of not to do it again and then the training topic for the October Training had to be postponed. Moreover, IBL Staff from States Side could no way to come.



(Our Pastoral Training In August)

Our coaching, consulting, and counseling ministry are also affected by China Virus. It seemed to me that not only our ministry are affected but Churches throughout the country are also experience a widespread set-back. There was something like fear and neglectfulness silently spreading among Churches and Christians, and this means Pastors and Leaders are included. It seemed they don't mind to revitalize ministries in their Churches or they could not do it while their Church Members are in fear or/and in economic difficulties like losing jobs or clients. We can easily recognize that Churches in the city are affected more severe than Churches in the countryside. We lost clients also. The cases for consulting and counseling were reduced significantly. However, I always try my best to keep myself close to our graduates and students to coach them.



(Our Coaching Workshop In November)

We also had some end year blessings. In our culture, baptism is considered as sacred and highly respected therefore people think that they should require honorable pastors or leaders to do it for them. The belief is umbilical as it is but it takes time and effort to break the lie. A few weeks ago I had an opportunity to do the baptism for eight people among several Churches and my Church is included. I decided not to do it by myself alone but I also took the opportunity to supervise two ordained pastors and one deacon do it under "my authority". To help the candidates know the truth on biblical water baptism some helpful pieces of biblical principle were embedded into the teaching to them before



taking them into the water. The teaching went very well but we had a lot of difficulties when entering the water with strong waves. This time, due to restrictions by the Government because of pandemic condition, we could not do the baptism in a nice swimming pool as we used to do it in the past but we had to go to a remote sea shore instead.



(Baptism At Sea In Strong Waves A few Weeks Ago)

Christmas Season is always a season of evangelism in my country Vietnam and Churches in here try their best to do it by every mean, and I myself is not an exception. I've started traveling to preach in friends' Churches and will conclude by the end of December only. For decades it has become a kind of Church Culture that every Church Member should do the "individual evangelism" ("one on one evangelism") and inviting friends and relatives to the evangelism events whether they are held by their Church or not. The Lord has blessed us with some new converts so far.



(Evangelism Service And New Converts)

Thank you for your faithful generous support to our family and ministry during the years. Without your sacrifice for the sake of Christ like that we cannot accomplish what we've done. Let's continue to be like-minded and one spirit and having the same love and purpose to accomplish our commitment with the One to Whom we're privileged to serve. Please keep us in your prayer and financial support so that we will together advance God's Ministry to His glory.

Blessings!

(Solomon & Deborah)