Jan 2022

Dear Family & Friends

Happy New Year! Hope you all had a good and pleasant time with your family and friends during Christmas and New Year holiday! During the holiday season, I spent a week of personal retreat to reflect on what God has done in the past year and to seek God's guidance for this new year!

Let me share with you some of the highlights of my reflection:

1. God's grace is sufficient in weaknesses

Last summer when my team leader was away on Home Assignment during the Covid pandemic, our church families and community experienced a very difficult time. I had to work together with the church leadership team and decide how to provide financial assistance to people to buy food during the Covid pandemic. I was exhausted and experienced heavy fatigue. Thanks to our gracious God that He watched over me and helped me to recover and restore my health. His promise is so true that His grace is sufficient in our weaknesses!

2. Learn how to work for God

Last year I read two books, "Waiting on God & Abide in Christ" by Andrew Murray, that renewed and transformed my relationship with God. I learned that the importance of waiting on and abiding in Christ is to stop self-striving and self-effort and absolutely depend on Him alone. It is intimate communion with God that reveals to us how to live and how to serve in the world that will bring honour to God's name!

I thank God that through my retreat time with Him I realized how absolute my dependence is upon God's strength to work in me in every moment of my life. How sure it is that He promises that those who wait on Him will renew their strength:)

2022 will be a challenging as well as an exciting year for Hope for Life Church among the urban poor in Phnom Penh. Veasna, one of our core church leaders, and his family have just moved away from our urban poor area, but he still serves in the leadership team. Thai, another core leader who has been leading the online women's bible study, will give birth to her first baby in a few weeks. She will be

stepping down from her leadership role temporarily. Thanks be to God that He has provided a lady, named Sokhieng, to take up Thai's online teaching role. She will join our church leadership team in January.

1. Pray for God's protection and guidance on the leadership team as we work towards the process of independence.

One of the greatest blessings is to see the growth of the church leadership team. Ten years ago, many of them were shy and did not even dare to lead in prayer. Today they have become worship leaders, bible study leaders, preachers etc...I was very encouraged by Pallin, one of the leaders. She is a very shy lady but she is faithful in prayer. She told me today that she will invite a non-Christian lady in her neighbourhood to her home to join her for our Sat women's bible study online because she is poor and does not have a phone.

2. Pray that God will grant me wisdom and discernment to mentor and coach the future leaders of the church.

Thank you for your Christmas cards, gifts and encouragement! Peace and Joy to you in the year ahead!

Emmanuel Sabrina

Contact Info:

Sabrina Bach - OMF International Cambodia PO Box 570, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. OMF Canada Site: www.omf.ca

Women's bible study group - Christmas Celebration!

