Dear fellow Servants of God,

We send you greetings from the ministry among migrant workers in TAIWAN. Our names are Richard B. Navarro and Alma Jumuad-Navarro serving as Global Ministries missionaries assigned to migrant Filipino workers in Taiwan. We have two kids Charis and Matthew. We are really thankful to God for all his blessings, and thankful to people who supported us for this ministry so that the mission of God for migrant Filipino workers will be possible.

"Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain". 1Corinthians 15:58 (RSV)

Few months have passed to date, corona virus or covid19 has paralyzed all our mobility, economy and ontogeny locally and globally. Most of the places in the world are on lockdown and under community quarantine. This is our first time to witness and experience the invisible power of corona virus. At first Covid-19 hide her symptoms as she infects the victims. People with contagion from this virus are shocked with fear to lose their lives.

Facing the dreadful image of covid 19, the infected people have more confidence in their battle gear of faith, trust and strength from God - the only last recourse to fight this virus.

The worse scenario of manifestation when covid19 contaminates her prey is to experience difficulty in breathing (severe cases) and many ends up with death. Covid19 is not only fatal physically but also, she tries to kill religious practices like worship services and other activities of local churches in the world. And in an effortless manner she is dispersing our band as nation, as community and as family of God.

This virus tries to promote the behavior of self-centeredness saying that we don’t need each other and need to be isolated. She is against our Christian teaching that no one lives and dies for himself alone, she also attempts to kill our courage and vaccinates fear to our mind in order to show the world that she is powerful…. thus, frightens everyone.

Despite strong exertions of this invisible deadly virus or covid19, it still cannot overcome the mighty power of God through the visible hands of services rendered by His people. We witness and learn that many people are sharing even in small ways to help neighbors. The community spirit is awakened and become strong so that everybody can feel the burden of each other to ease the pain.

The Gospel of John 6:9 reminds us about the boy who initiated from among the crowd to offer what he has for everyone to eat and thousands of people are fed and satisfied. Indeed, the gesture of this little boy in the bible has been a model for all people around the globe to help share to save life. Similarly, our ministry among migrant workers in Taiwan is doing similar gestures as well.

Taiwan government has a strong political will to end the war against covid 19. Most of the countries of the world that are infected and affected by covid19 impose enhanced community quarantine or lockdown, but Taiwan is far different from other countries because Taiwan has no lockdown since the onset of the medical emergency. People in Taiwan are free to move...
around. Schools, Stores, and Workplaces are open provided that everyone follows the common precautionary measures like wearing mask that is a must. Taiwan deals covid19 intelligently with a clever planning initiated by the high officials of the government.

However, Filipino migrant workers are on the other side of the situation. Most companies or factories grab the opportunity to impose their own rules to hold the neck of migrant workers. Companies impose longer and earlier curfew hours. Some Migrant workers can only go out one hour daily to buy food and other personal needs and there are some workers who are not allowed to go out at all. Well, these rules are set to keep the migrant workers safe from covid-19. The rules are exclusive for foreign workers. The locals are free. Isn’t it strange and crazy?!

In this situation migrant workers are physically, emotionally and spiritually distressed. Alongside, they are much worried about the situation of their family back in the Philippines.

Our ministry has responded to the challenges of Filipino migrant workers. We do the following:

- We do Online Worship services and Bible studies
- We do Live streaming “ponder and pray” three times a week to console their pains and dismayed souls.
- We do purchase grocery items on their behalf and deliver them to their dormitories
- We do cook foods, pack and do dorm to dorm delivery. This is free of charge just to fulfill their desire to eat Filipino foods in variation with packed Taiwanese food that has been provided by company.

The above gestures show about God’s love in a concrete way, to stay connected as Tahanan’ians in these covid-19 times, and to say “Tahanan cares for you”.

**SPIRITUAL SOAKING**

Chinese New year celebration, a Tahanan way… by going to the mountain retreat center and host a spiritual soaking.

This year’s retreat has two facilitators from the Philippines. Both clergy and presented different topics including mental health.
The participants engage different workshops and activities to experience God’s presence in our five senses.

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🌈 TAHANAN MEDIATES LABOR ISSUE

Tahanan connects with Philippine representative office in Taipei to resolve labor dispute between Filipino workers and employer. Richard accompanied the complainants to Taipei. Our presence as global missionary helps to get an immediate positive action by pushing the Philippine representative’s office to call the attention of the company to raise the issue.

Well this happens when our daughter was hospitalized yet we need to give our time as well to the angst of migrant workers as such time as this.

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🌈 TAHANAN AS VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

Taiwan government mandates everyone to follow preventive measures against covid-19. Mid-February Tahanan starts to do Live Streaming for weekly worship services and prayer time. Bible studies and meetings are done thru zoom. A virtual church in these trying times assures the people of God’s presence during these dark days of our lives.

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🌈 TAHANAN CARES ON COVID DAYS

Mid-February, most Tahanan’ans are prohibited by employers to go to mass gatherings by imposing more tougher rules such as having longer curfew hours, allowing workers to go out one hour daily, some are not allowed to go out at all. Tahanan initiates to prepare food packs to Tahanan’ians.
January-March 2020

We cook 2 kinds of viands, pack individually and do dorm to dorm delivery. A hundred recipients were overwhelmed and blessed. This is how Tahanan shows love during “Stay at Dorm” days.

We are very grateful to God for the spirit of life, hope and love having you in our journey for migrant ministry. Indeed, you are the answer to our prayers. Despite your financial & emotional struggles, you are still so strong to endure the call to Christ’s MISSION. We are intensely praying for you in order that you may continually touch many lives in Christ’s service.

We would like to invite you to pray for missionary work with Migrant Filipino Workers in Taiwan. We invite you to walk with us in a missionary journey and pray for us in the ministry of Migrant Workers in Taiwan. Pray that our ministry can be an instrument to be a blessing of God’s love.

We are humbly knocking to your generous heart to support Global Ministries by assisting with our salary support through the advance #s so we can remain faithful to the call the Lord made on our life.

For financial contributions, you may:
1. Use Global Ministries’ website: www.umcmission.org to send a donation for my salary support. At the bottom of the page, click on ”Missionaries”. Scroll to our name on the missionaries’ page and our profile will appear. At the bottom of our profile is a link to make an online donation.
2. Through mailing a check to your local church or conference office. Write “for Alma J. Navarro # 3022029, and Richard B. Navarro # 3022030” on the memo line of your check.

If not sending through a local United Methodist Church, you may send your check to: Advance GCFA ; P.O. Box 9068 ; New York, NY 10087-9068.

We end with words to say thank you and we appreciate so much for your faithful support!

Sincerely,
Richard & Alma Navarro
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