

February 2022

Dear Friends and Partners,

Happy New Year! We know it is a bit late for that greeting but hope and pray that you are well in every way. We ended 2021 with the aftermath of the super typhoon Odette in Ledith's hometown here in the Philippines. Though we had big plans we desired to carry out, we couldn't do most of them because of the damage the typhoon caused. Thankfully we were kept away from the eye of the storm and got back to our family just before 2022.



### **NEW BUT FAMILIAR ASSIGNMENT: UGANDA**

This coming March 15 will mark our second year off our assigned mission field. The pandemic and the political situation momentarily closed the door for us to return to Myanmar. Although we ministered here by encouraging the Philippine churches to get highly involved in missions to the unreached, we still feel that we are supposed to be the "sent ones" who are reaching out cross-culturally, and we truly miss its routines. If you noticed, this letter is colored with the Ugandan flag since the TCM leadership is temporarily redirecting us back to East Africa while waiting for an open door to return to Myanmar. Opportunities may change directions, but our heartbeat remains the same—we're up for wherever the Lord leads for His best interest.

Our temporary assignment is familiar. While we were working in Kenya, we had times of getting acquainted with our Ugandan brethren as they sometimes came to join our national conferences. Gardner spent a week with Ben Anderson and other Kenyan leaders ministering in the main church in Kampala (Uganda's capital city) sometime after their founding missionaries, Carlo and Elma Pana, left the field to return to Philippines. By God's grace, the field continues to serve with 4 churches through the initiative of their leadership. Our role this time will be to help the leadership focus more consistently on church planting goals and strategies. There is also a need of establishing a consistent training program in order to produce more leaders, which eventually helps with church planting. We can also serve as mentors when new missionaries are available to join and stay in Uganda for the future when we are able to get back to Southeast Asia.

### **OLD YET ONGOING ASSIGNMENT: MYANMAR**

Though Myanmar faces tough challenges due to the pandemic and political unrest, the TCM work is steadily giving us encouragement. With restrictions on group meetings, the nationals and missionaries are using "home groups" for Bible study or church groups like it was during Paul's time. In other words, even if a large crowd church is not consistently operating, the small group is actively taking over with all of its advantages. Evangelism and edification are getting more personal and relevant.



Currently the government is easing up the restrictions, and this interestingly opens a new opportunity to plant another church in one of the biggest, primarily Buddhist townships of Yangon called Shwepyitha. Swepyitha is a multi-ethnic section, and it offers a lot of opportunities to share the gospel to different groups of people. As pastor Mawi (seated in the middle of the second picture) continues to lead the ministry as a whole, Pastor Caleb (explaining the Bible in the second picture and speaking to a group of people in the third picture) will serve as the church planter in Swepyitha. Pastor Caleb is one of the first-fruits of MGTS (Myanmar Grace Theological School) which is mostly organized by Dan and Amy Banac.

### **FAMILY MATTERS:**

One of the joys we have here is to see our granddaughter, Avia, grow and excel in academics. A few weeks ago, she was awarded her preschool class's highest honor. I guess Grandma Ledith's tutoring worked well! Avia's parents, Paul and Keren (our eldest daughter), continue



to work online with Australian companies. Dov and Kezia (our middle daughter) are preparing for their first baby to come in the middle of March. We are so excited to see her personally just before we leave for Uganda. Kelly (our youngest daughter) is about to complete her second year in BSBA Marketing Management at Xavier University. She is doing her course online due to the restrictions on classroom settings because of the pandemic. We could see how much she missed campus life when she first got to enter Xavier University's main campus to pick up her school ID. One of her prayers is to experience in person classroom instruction before she graduates.

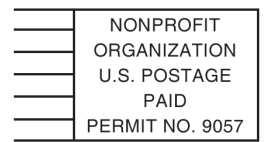


**THINGS  
TO COME  
MISSION**



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**BREAKING NEWS**  
**Gardner & Ledith Improso**



**18-MONTH  
ASSIGNMENT  
TO  
UGANDA**

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

1. We are expected to be in Uganda by early April. However, we are both on medications in order to at least arrive healthy on the field. Ledith takes medications for her gallstone problem, and I am taking medications for my kidney stone, high sugar and cholesterol.
2. Although we are familiar with East Africa in general, it will be another series of readjustments for us geographically, culturally and physically. Uganda is one of those countries in Africa that offers excellent food variations, but when we arrive, we will need to have a lot of tastings in order to establish a regular diet out of what they have to offer.
3. We really need a good transport system to access places and people. Though most of our movements will be spent around the city of Kampala, it is equally necessary that we go out to counties whenever we are called on to do outreach or edification ministries. Pray that we can have a vehicle of our own, or that we can find an affordable one to hire regularly.
4. As Kelly's education gets closer to the finish, there will more expenses. Please pray that we can cope with all her schooling needs so she can complete her degree.
5. We are setting up a Church Planting Fund for Myanmar in order to support ministers who are involved in church planting. We are starting with Pastor Caleb now, but there will be more to follow shortly. The Church Planting Fund will be able to help meet the set-up needs and consistent personal support of the minister until the church is able to supply their ministers. Should you desire to take part, please send your help to TCM (PO Box 127, Beech Grove, IN 46107) designated for ***Team Myanmar Church Planting Fund***.
6. There is less than two months remaining before April and as of this writing, we have yet to start working on all the documents and requirements needed to leave Philippines and arrive in Uganda. There will certainly be extra tasks to do and more effort to expend, considering the current situation where traveling or migrating is getting more difficult. Nevertheless, we are thankful the mission can go on!

We truly appreciate your prayers, support and partnership. We believe there are things to come that will make us all realize how valuable our partnership with each other is. May the Lord of the harvest continue to increase or enable you as you are meaningfully sharing the same passion with us for the lost.

In Christ alone,

***Gardner and Ledith Improso***