

MISSIONS

Dr. Marty S. Tew

PFWB

HELP GO 2020



The Help Go Offering is received in our local churches during the Christmas season (between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day) and is used specifically for project needs on the foreign fields. The many project needs are varied, but some examples include church building construction, purchase of land for churches, purchase of Bibles and discipleship literature, funding for pastoral and leadership training, youth ministry needs, and vehicles for reliable transportation. One hundred percent of the Help Go Offering is distributed to the mission fields. We have sent an email to all our ministers with a downloadable Help Go video that you can use to show in your service times or other opportunities. We are also sharing this video on our PFWB social media pages. Help Go donation envelopes are available if you would like some for your church people. If you would like to receive envelopes, please contact us by calling the Resource Center (910.892.4161) or email Amy Murphy at amy@pfbw.org. All Help Go offerings should be sent to the Resource Center at the end of collection time. Thank you so much for partnering with us to support the mission fields of the PFWB Church.



MISSIONS MUSINGS

2020 has been a challenging year, and not just because of Covid-19. Recently, there has been a series of typhoons in the Philippines and two major hurricanes hit Central America within a two-week period. These storms have affected our PFWB family in these areas in varying degrees, but I am thankful to tell you that there has been no reported loss of life among our people.

Just this week a friend was telling me about a what scientists have discovered about the role of wind in a tree's life. Biosphere 2 is a completely closed ecosystem owned by the University of Arizona. It is like a miniature version of our planet constructed for the purpose of studying how the earth's living systems actually work. A major discovery was made in an area the scientists never expected.

In Biosphere 2, trees were growing faster than they normally would in the wild. However, before the trees could fully mature, they would fall under their own weight. This was found to be caused by a lack of wind in the biosphere. Wind plays a major role in tree and plant life. In the natural world, even light winds keep the trees constantly moving. A tree will compensate for the stress placed on it by the wind by growing something called "reaction wood" or "stress wood." This reaction wood has a different structure and allows the tree to grow in the direction of the best sunlight and other optimum resources, like roots growing deeper and towards a water source. This is why trees can grow in awkward shapes yet still be able to bear great loads. So, the stress caused by wind is what enables a tree to grow strong enough to sustain the wear and tear that it will face in later life.

Similar to the relationship between trees and wind, God uses the daily stresses that we face in life to make us stronger. Faith that is growing is faith that is being exercised. We can draw strength from God each day as we remain rooted in His Word and walk in the light of the Son. This speaks of the abiding relationship we can experience with Jesus- drawing from Him what is needed for each moment (John 15.5). Jesus is our "reaction wood"- the Rod from the stem of Jesse- who enables us to resist the forces that come against us, and day by day we grow a little stronger. And when the major storms come, we need not fear, because He is the One who will cause us to stand. King David said it this way, "Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved" (Psalm 55:22). Believer be encouraged in the Lord today!

I thank God for all our PFWB Church family, and my prayer is that each of you have a very Merry Christmas,

Marty

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