

Christ for the Philippines

Alparaque Update



Serving
Under Christ
For The
Philippines
**A BAPTIST
MISSION**
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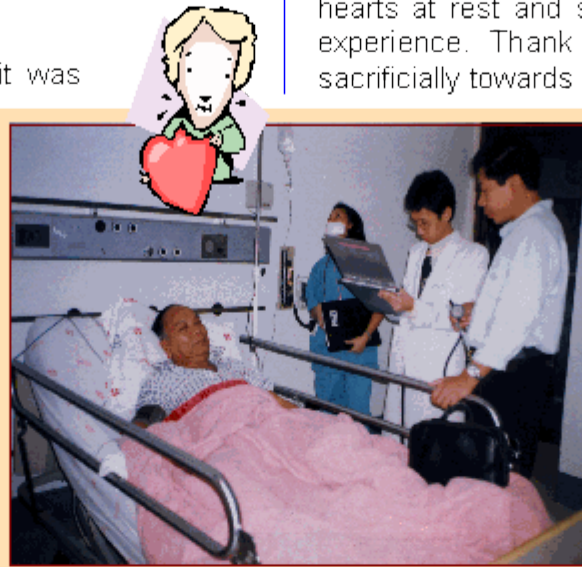
Dear Praying Friends,

The preacher says, "There is an appointed time for everything. There is a time for every event under the heaven." (**even time to rest**)

Ecc. 3:1

God's message for me that it was time to take a break took place last January 22, 2001. After a heavy weekend preaching schedule, I was rushed to the emergency hospital due to a severe chest pain. I suffered a heart attack. Aggressive treatment and watchful care for a total of nine days (three days in the intensive care) in our local hospital was my first hospital experience never to be forgotten.

Dr. Ismael Yanga, CFTP Mission president had suggested that angiogram and possible angioplasty be looked into if necessary. So last February 4, my dear wife and I flew to Manila and I got admitted the same day at the Philippine Heart Center for further evaluation. The result of angiogram done the following day was unexpected. Five of my coronary arteries were occluded. And since it was localized, the ideal solution recommended by our doctor was angioplasty. On February 07, they did the surgery which lasted for almost two hours and I was conscious all the time looking at the screen while they were doing the procedure. Four stents were put in. It was almost painless but a very difficult process. Dr. Dee, Pert's surgeon told Mel right after he came out of the cath lab, "Mrs. Alparaque, we did it successfully, it was a difficult work and I think I aged ten years." Lord willing that should keep me going for another twenty years or more. The four doctors who attended me were all Christians. It was a very expensive procedure and thank God they all waved their professional fees and the Lord paid the rest of the medical expenses.



Pert attended by his cardiologist, Dr. Saquian, after his angioplasty.

My wife and I would like to express to you all our deepest appreciation for your prayers. God answered those prayers. God's peace kept our hearts at rest and sustained us throughout this experience. Thank you very much for giving sacrificially towards my medical bills. Now, I am

enjoying the blessings of being able to rest, to loosen up for one month. I could hardly wait to get back to work. By the time you get this newsletter I'm already back to the ministry God has called me to do. We are grateful for our efficient staff and pastors who took over my place so that the daily broadcast can continue uninterrupted.

During these past weeks, the Lord impressed upon me the

value of rest. Our problem is, we have a dozen of logical reasons when we are given the opportunity to take a break. The psalmist counsels us, "Be still" so that we can know God better. When the disciples returned from a very hectic schedule it was the Lord's idea that they retreat and rest. Being faithful and dedicated to the work is commendable but there is a time to rest. These past four weeks were God's time for me. No matter how much we love the Lord, God never intended us to "burn out." We cannot substitute activity for living or busyness for meaningful priorities.

Again, Thank you so much for your loving concern and earnest prayers for me.

With thanksgiving to God,

Pater Pert and Mel

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