

MISSIONARY CARE

REV. NICOLO PADILLA

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13:34-35

With a clear call from Scripture to make disciples among all nations, our growth groups are given the privilege to be part of God's global movement by adopting a missionary. We believe that although not everyone is called to be a missionary, everyone is called to be part of His mission to disciple the nations. Through this grace-driven effort, we hope to join hands with those serving in the frontlines, so that, as one, we could advance His Kingdom for His name and fame!

By its definition in the context of GCF South Metro, to adopt a missionary is to take another person or family and consider him/them as a part of our own. Therefore, our purpose is to journey alongside our missionaries by providing holistic care through physical, emotional, and spiritual support.

As we celebrated missions month this year, we were given the privilege to witness how the Lord is preparing His bride from different parts of the globe (i.e., in Nepal, Europe, Bangladesh, and Pakistan) through several

of our supported missionaries. Although our team has been immensely limited in terms of being able to travel, because of ongoing restrictions, the Lord has once again proven that nothing can hinder or thwart His purpose of making Himself known to the nations. Despite our obvious limitations, the Lord has opened doors for GCF South Metro to continue to take part in God's global mission by intentionally partnering with and supporting dear friends who are serving in the frontlines.

To highlight, growth groups from our NextGen ministry recently adopted one of our Pakistani partners. As mentioned above, when we adopt a missionary, our purpose is to provide holistic care through physical, emotional, and spiritual support. And this is exactly what our NextGen growth groups are doing for our dear friend in Pakistan.

For the physical aspect, to our surprise, our NextGen growth groups raised a substantial amount of financial support for our dear friend, enough to fund a youth conference attended by both believers and unbelievers. In terms of both the emotional and spiritual support, our NextGen GG's are continuously in touch with our missionary, constantly communicating and extending prayers for him, his

family, and ministry. We truly praise God for this partnership!

As we look ahead in the year 2022, this is something we pray would happen in all of our growth groups, that all of us in GCF South Metro would commit to adopt and to partner with a missionary/pastor serving in the field. Although we may not be able to physically help in their communities, the support that we can extend, as modeled by our NextGen growth groups, is an opportunity for us to be intentionally involved in God's global mission!

As we take to heart the mission that Christ has called us to do, may we be reminded of these two promises: (1) *That all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him and* (2) *that He promised to be with us always, until the end of the age. To God be the glory! ✠*

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