

**Dear Team,**

Greetings! In the past weeks I have communicated with most, if not all of you. It is my hope, as I have not been informed so far, that no one from among the leadership (and hopefully our members/volunteers) has contracted or perished from this unseen enemy-the covid 19.

Echoing our very own President's (Andy Corley) words, "THE CHURCH COMMUNITY IS ALWAYS AT ITS BEST WHEN IT ADVANCES INTO THE EYE OF TH STORM. This is no surprise...it is exactly what The Lord Jesus did in His life, death and resurrection on a cosmic level and now He is inviting us to share in His resurrection life and continue the work of new creation begun on Easter Sunday...into the eye of the storm.

This crisis indeed has distinguished those who are worriers more than warriors, those who persevere and adapt, seizing the day (carpe diem) and those who relent and floored by it".

After a few days, our leaders chose to rise above the challenges, not allowing fear and anxiety, confusion and hopelessness to immobilize them. The Lord is their refuge and source of strength and power to pursue their calling.

So, I want to share with you how our regional leaders are creatively and bravely responding still....in the eye of the storm, which is becoming the new normal for all of us.

1. **PF MALAYSIA** leaders took this opportunity very seriously, to show to their Government that they truly mean partnership in transforming the lives of people behind bars so they made their prison authorities feel their presence in prison by intentionally fund raising and engaging the help of other NGOs to fund their PPE distribution for front liners and inmates. They hope to provide for all 42 prisons.



2. **PF PHILIPPINES** engaged some Prison Officers for the continuation of TPJ in prisons where there were inmates disciplined and trained as facilitators. The condition was for PF Philippines to provide all Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) needed by the participants which was easily provided. Virtual coaching of the internal facilitators (inmates) by the external facilitators/volunteers was allowed by the authorities. They are now smoothly sailing. On top of this, they have managed to help the inmates earn little income by promoting and distributing their products such as masks to other prisons and now extended to the public. TPJ Facilitators pursued to sustain support for the inmates and prison authorities in some prisons via the provision of food stuff for the inmates.



3. **PF SINGAPORE** is doing an intensive fund raising for the families of prisoners who do not qualify for the whole range of Singapore Government's Solidarity Budget which included a slew of measures to help Singaporeans and permanent residents.
4. **PF SRI LANKA** leadership started a fund raising for the children of prisoners. They are reaching communities through food and financial assistance and are increasing their reach through their close partnership with other NGOs that have financial capacity. It is amazing to know that difficult circumstances bring out the best in us.
5. **PF MYANMAR** is the newest member of our PFI family. For the first time in five decades, their President released through presidential pardon, close to Twenty Five Thousand (25,000) prisoners. The ordinary people of this Military run nation are in shock but the PF Myanmar leadership was quick to strategically position themselves to meet these former inmates at the gates and lead them to homes and families and pay them a visit for prayer and encouragement.



Let us not stop trying during these trying times but keep pursuing, by the grace of Him-our refuge and source of strength.

Stay safe,

**Penny**

Mary Penelope E. Gonnay  
 Regional Director-Asia Pacific  
 Prison Fellowship International  
 Baguio City, Philippines  
 P. +63 9274797143 | Skype: pelenope.g  
 www.pfi.org