

Hello Friend!

It's a cold, wintry day here in Michigan as we write to you. Tree branches are wrapped in ice. The Christmas carol title, "In the Bleak Midwinter," perfectly describes the view from our window. But beyond gray bleakness and midwinter cold, it's the carol's words that have stayed with us long after Christmas:

*What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give
Him,
Give my heart.*



This month we celebrate Valentine's Day. You'll see hearts everywhere! Maybe you'll receive a hand-made Valentine card from a grandchild, give red roses to your sweetheart, or enjoy a special dinner. But is there more to "giving your heart" than this?

James, one of our PhD students whom you support in the Clinical Christian Counseling program in the Philippines, shares his ideas in his heartfelt letter to you.

I wish to express my sincerest gratitude to the foundation that has been instrumental in God's work of shaping me to become the man He wants me to be.

*By the grace of God, I have completed all my academic courses, completed the comprehensive examinations, and am currently working on my dissertation prospectus. It has been a wonderful journey of learning and self-discovery, but more importantly, of God opening numerous opportunities to serve Him by journeying with the people He sends my way. **Being in the program opened my eyes and heart to see how hurting people can find healing in Jesus Christ, and how I can become an agent to help facilitate that healing by coming alongside them the way Jesus would.***

*Being a counselor/therapist has also helped me become more discerning to my own weaknesses, tendencies, and vulnerabilities, and how grateful am I to have people in the program – my professors, therapist, and classmates – who foster safe spaces where I can express and be supported. Truly, **the classroom became not just a place for academics, but for deep healing as well.***

In addition to one-on-one counseling, I am also actively applying what I have learned from the program in my ministry as head pastor of our church in Fairview, Quezon City, the Lifegiver Christian Family Ministries (LCFM), and in the seminary where I finished my Biblical studies degree, the International Graduate School of Leadership (IGSL). My learnings have deepened my compassion and care for people who struggle, just as I myself have struggles of my own.



James (right front) leads a small group discipleship group with married men in his church.

I praise and thank God for NCF and everyone in it. May the Lord richly bless and reward you for your generosity and love for people in Asia.

Give your heart

We hope your *heart* has been touched by reading James' letter. **Thank you** for expressing love through your gifts to missionaries and MKs and to missionary care providers. **Thank you** for providing James and 31 PhD students with education scholarships. The NCF PhD program is arguably the best in Asia and unique in its emphasis on the integration of psychology and Scripture. Nearly all of our PhD students actively serve in church and counseling ministries while pursuing their studies. The program's impact ripples across Asia as they transform lives and ministries.



James, a skilled violinist, often leads class worship

Please give now to support our PhD students!

Joyfully serving the Lord with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Hibma".

Tim Hibma, MSW
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Hibma".

Cindy Hibma, RN, BSN
Vice President of Operations

P.S. You can designate your gift for NCF's PhD program in the Philippines, Casa Aprisco in Spain, MK ReEntry Seminar, Counseling & Member Care Seminar, another NCF ministry, or the general fund. Mail in your check or donate online at <https://ncfliving.org/get-involved/donate.html>.

P.S.S. 42 MKs from 26 countries are planning to attend the 2026 MK ReEntry Seminar! Please generously support this life-changing camp for MKs.