



The weight of burden and guilt

At 36 weeks pregnant Ai-Ai came down from the bukid (mountain region) to Mercy for prenatal care for the first time. I was working in the birth room when she came in and I felt the Lord impress on my heart to do continuity of care with her and be her midwife. She came in multiple times throughout the next month sometimes even spending the night at the clinic, yet her labor never really started. Finally, on one such occasion I got paper and pens out put on some worship music and had her write down her fears.

Ai-Ai began to open up and shared how just one year ago she delivered a baby boy at her home in the bukid. Her mother was caring for the baby so she could sleep after the birth, she was shortly woken up by her mother a few hours later as the baby was not breathing, they then took the baby to the closest hospital which was hours away. When they finally arrived the baby was declared dead by the doctor. For the past year and throughout her current pregnancy she has carried the weight and burden of guilt.

For the next few minutes we talked on how the burden can be given to Jesus and what His word says. The lies that she is a bad mother, she cannot do it, it's her fault, etc. were countered with the truth of who God says she is and what His word of truth says. We prayed together and she went back home with a Bible and more peace in her heart.

A week or so later she came back to the clinic in labor again. Labor was stalling though. So Ate Nhing (Filipina Midwife) walked them through verbally welcoming the baby as fear was still inhibiting labor. Both Ai-Ai and her husband said out-loud that they welcomed this baby, that they loved him, and that they wanted to see him with tears streaming down both their faces. After this it was like a wall broke down and she entered into active intense labor.

Within a few hours Ai-Ai began pushing, as I delivered the baby and placed him on his mom's stomach I expected to see a joyful welcoming from the parents. Instead I looked up to see tears of anguish and disappointment fills Ai-Ai eyes as she looked at her son who has a clef lip and large clef palate. In this moment where disappointment and hopelessness were quickly creeping back in the Spirit lead as we began to "change the atmosphere" by speaking out how perfect and beautiful their son is.

When the burden of the past or the present is closing in and fear cripples the steps taken to move forward the light of Jesus shines into the deepest hurts and disappointments.

Ai- Ai and her little family have return to the bukid now and are so happy with their son. As Ai-Ai was leaving she told me she was so moved by the love that was shown to her throughout and how her son was received. She stated she would not have had this help anywhere else. God moved in a powerful way in her and her family's life as newlife was born.



Baby Alyco



Ate Nhing, Ai-Ai's husband, Ai-Ai, and Me

Acer Gray

I woke early morning from a text from one of my patients stating she was in a lot of pain and what seemed to be active labor, I responded right away telling her to come into Mercy being that she had an hour journey to get to the clinic, she would not have much time. I myself hurried to the clinic to meet her. However, after an hour she was still not at the clinic, so I called her on her cell phone.

Immediately, she picked up and said "gwasa ang bata, padulong mi" the baby is out I am on my way. Unfortunately, this little guy could not wait, but we all prepared and met mom and baby at the front door baby Acer Gray came still attached to the placenta, which was wrapped in a plastic bag.



Hannah and I on afternoon outreach trekking through the jungle maze of stilted houses and board walkways from house to house on the water front trying to find a patient.

My season here in the Philippines is quickly coming to an end as I am scheduled to return to the states at the end of June.

- Would you consider partnering with me through prayer and or financially as I finish out my last few months.
- One specific need is for a plane ticket back to the states.

Thank you for your continued support.

In His Love, Emily



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