

St. Ignatius Boys Hostel



Mission Update *With Gratitude*

Glossy presentations of Christian mission work often capture exciting scenes of exotic landscapes or touching moments of interpersonal emotion. These glimpses of mission work are genuine but they are hard won flashes of encouragement. Mission work is not adventure vacationing. It is risky and sometimes dangerous. However the Church has never been deterred from sharing Her Truth and Love in our Savior Jesus.

St. Paul as the proto-missionary of the Church to the gentiles faced great adversity. He was beaten and stoned, shipwrecked and betrayed. In his mission work St. Paul acknowledged, “weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities” (2 Cor. 2:10). He did not give into despair nor did he abandon his calling or communities. “But we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” (Rm. 5:3-5).

Centuries after St. Paul, St. Innocent, Enlightener of Alaska, wrote, “Prayer is the simplest, surest, and most available means to receive the Holy Spirit.” Prayer is the mainstay of any missionary and mission. Missions confront visible and invisible challenges. Bringing the

Light of Christ to places where His Truth is unknown, missions are on the forefront of spiritual battle. Missionary work suffers frustration, isolation and confusion. Sometimes a missionary feels swallowed by deprivation, spiritual and physical. All this must be commended to our merciful God in prayer. Hence, “the simplest, surest, and most available means” to support missionary work is prayer, prayer by name and specific prayer for peace, strength, wisdom and stability.

I am grateful for Sister Nectaria, Cherubim and most of all the boys of St. Ignatius Hostel and the time I was given to be among them.

Through your prayers,

Paul

