

## “Job’s Answer to Zopher’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Counsel” Job 21:1-34 7/02/23

Today, we’d like to see the title of “Job’s Answer to Zopher’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Counsel” in Job 21:1-34.

To Online Word’s souls, *through MP3 or YouTube Channel*, on the earth, we’d like to suggest the 3 expositional Questions. (*Maranatha Worship Songs*. Videos are watchable upon the click on the website). **YouTube Channel is not Available in China, Iran, Germany, etc. where only MP3 is available**

Q1. In verse 4, “As for me, is my complaint against man? And if *it were*, why should I not be impatient?” what does it mean? And what can we learn from here?

Q2. In verse 22, “Can *anyone* teach God knowledge, Since He judges those on high?” in this context, what does it mean? And what to learn and how to apply it to our lives are here?

Q3. In verse 34, “How then can you comfort me with empty words, Since falsehood remains in your answers?” why is Zopher’s counsel empty words and falsehood? And what to learn and how to apply it to our lives are here?

(Background for context of this text on Daily Bible Reading and Studying Weekly Book Basis)

Here are attached the previously studied 3 charts in order to understand this chapter.

### Pain & Suffering’s 5 Reasons

Types	Reasons	Examples	References <sup>1</sup>
(1)	Sickness	A woman patient of a flow of blood for 12 years	Luke 8:43
(2)	Death	Lazarus the brother of Mary was dead.	John 11:32-33
(3)	Sin	David’s adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah	2 Sam 12:10-11
(4)	Faith	Paul and Timothy’s unwavering faith	2 Cor 1:8
(5)	Divine Good Purpose	Joseph to his brothers who sold him to Midianite traders	Gen 50:20; Gen 37:28; Rom 8:28

*Note that a divine good purpose is either unknown or known by a suffering person at suffering time. Toward Job, he did not know at his suffering time, but he knew later in the last chapter 42.*

Here, Job’s 3 friends alleged that Job’s Pain & Suffering had been caused by (3) sin against God, requiring repentance before God; Job continually refuted the 3 friends’ counsels in the question of (5) divine good purpose to be later revealed in Job 42:5, “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.”

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<sup>1</sup> *Luke 8:43* Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any; *John 11:32-33* Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup> Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled; *2 Sam 12:10-11* Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ <sup>11</sup> Thus says the LORD: ‘Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun; *2 Cor 1:8* For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life; *Gen 50:20* But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive; *Gen 37:28* Then Midianite traders passed by; so *the brothers* pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty *shekels* of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt; *Rom 8:28* And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

## Increase or Success

(1) Any Increase or Success is given by sovereign God ( <i>1 Cor 3:7-8; Mat 10:29; Rom 9:21</i> <sup>2</sup> );				
(2) Earthly success or increase is not always heavenly success or increase ( <i>Heb 9:27</i> <sup>3</sup> ).				
On Earth		In Heaven		Note
<i>Rom 8:4-5</i> <sup>4</sup>	By the flesh	<i>1 Cor 3:12-15</i> <sup>5</sup>	Not approved by God/Not rewarded in heaven/the failure in heaven/heavenly failure	<i>2 Chron 16:7; Mat 7:22-23</i> <sup>6</sup> “anyone’s work is burned” e.g. a prosperous church – its crooked ways were disclosed in secular court disputes
	By the Spirit		Approved by God/Rewarded in heaven/the success in heaven/the heavenly success	<i>Mat 25: 21,23</i> <sup>7</sup> “good and faithful servant” e.g., Totally opened to the Spirit’s works

## For the Glory of God

What to do	Whatever you eat, drink, live, walk, work, do, and so on.	<i>1 Cor 10:31</i> <sup>8</sup>
How to do	Seek 1 <sup>st</sup> the kingdom of God &	<i>Mat 6:33; Luke 9:23; 2 Chron 15:2</i> <sup>9</sup> Wherever ruled by God the Spirit/take up your cross/ take up your calling daily; e.g., God’s desire into your heart; not your desire for gains to cajole God
	Seek 1 <sup>st</sup> His righteousness	<i>Rom 1:16-17; Rom 10:17; John 14:26</i> <sup>10</sup> “live by faith”; e.g. live not by flesh but by every His word which the Spirit teaches you; the seed of faith is His word, not a human thought/human word

<sup>2</sup> *1 Cor 3:7-8* So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. <sup>8</sup> Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor; *Mat 10:29* Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will; *Rom 9:21* Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?

<sup>3</sup> *Heb 9:27* And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

<sup>4</sup> *Rom 8:4-5* that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit;

<sup>5</sup> *1 Cor 3:12-15* Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. <sup>14</sup> If anyone’s work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire;

<sup>6</sup> *2 Chron 16:7* And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said to him: “Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand; *Mat 7:22-23* Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

<sup>7</sup> *Mat 25:21,23*<sup>21</sup> His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ <sup>23</sup> His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

<sup>8</sup> *1 Cor 10:31* “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

<sup>9</sup> *Mat 6:33* “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” *Luke 9:23* Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” *2 Chron 15:2* And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: “Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD *is* with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.

<sup>10</sup> *Rom 1:16-17* For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” (*Rom 10:17*) So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God; *John 14:26* But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

Now we get to one of 5 poetical books – Job, Psalm, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, & Song of Solomon -- the book of Job, written in about 2,000 BC, before the book of Genesis written in 1450 BC by Moses. Job<sup>11</sup> lost property, his children, and suffered the painful boils from the sole of his feet unto his crown in *Job 1:16, 18-19; Job 2:7*.<sup>12</sup>

Then, Job’s 3 friends gave counsel to him in *Job 2:11*, “Now when Job’s three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, each one came from his own place—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had made an appointment together to come and mourn with him, and to comfort him.” Three (3) friends’ (Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar) counsels are that Job’s suffering’s reason is a sin, requiring repentance. However, another friend, Elihu, gives a counsel through Job from chapters 32 to 37 suffering’s reason is often the means to purify the children of God.

In the last time, we observed “Zopher’s 2<sup>nd</sup> counsel” in *Job 20:29*” This *is* the portion from God for a wicked man, The heritage appointed to him by God,” in conclusion, toward a sinner, it is generally right during his life time or thereafter because ultimately he is cast into the lake of fire<sup>13</sup>. But toward Job case, this Zophar’s counsel is not right as God says in *Job 42:8*,” Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and My servant Job shall pray for you. For I will accept him, lest I deal with you *according to your folly; because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has.*” So, from here, we can learn the counsel to another to be so careful. Unless you know a clear situation of a painful/ suffering person, it’s better to pray than to counsel him/her. When a clear situation is revealed, ask the Lord to give His counsel rather than your counsel, and follow His revelation, i.e., reveal an applicable word of omniscient God to him/her, away from your human wisdom.<sup>14</sup> Pray for him/her. Finally, keep his/her confidentiality unless it is against God.

Now, Job responds to the last chapter 20:

**TEXT: NKJV [KJV]**

Inductive **Explanation** in context & syntax

<p><sup>1</sup>Then <u>Job answered</u> and said:</p> <p><sup>2</sup>“<u>Listen carefully to my speech,</u> And let this be your consolation.</p> <p><sup>3</sup>Bear with me that I may speak, And after I have spoken, keep mocking.</p>	
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<sup>11</sup> *Job 1:1, 8* <sup>1</sup>There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. <sup>8</sup> Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?*”

<sup>12</sup> *Job 1:16, 18-19* <sup>16</sup> While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”, <sup>18</sup> While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, <sup>19</sup> and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”, *Job 2:7* So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

<sup>13</sup> *Rev 20:15* And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

<sup>14</sup> *1 Cor 1:25* Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<p>4 “As for me, <u>is my complaint against man?</u> And if <i>it were</i>, <u>why</u> should I <u>not be impatient?</u> 5 Look at me and be astonished; Put <i>your</i> hand over <i>your</i> mouth. 6 Even when I remember I am terrified, And trembling takes hold of my flesh. 7 Why do the <u>wicked live <i>and</i> become old,</u> <u>Yes, become mighty in power?</u> 8 <u>Their descendants</u> are established with them in <u>their sight,</u> And their offspring before their eyes. 9 Their houses <u>are safe from fear,</u> <u>Neither is the rod of God upon them.</u> 10 Their bull breeds without failure; Their cow calves <u>without miscarriage.</u> 11 They send forth their little ones like a flock, And their <u>children dance.</u> 12 They <u>sing</u> to the tambourine and harp, And rejoice to the sound of the flute. 13 They <u>spend their days in wealth,</u> And <u>in a moment go down to the grave.</u> 14 Yet they say to God, ‘Depart from us, For we do <u>not desire the knowledge of Your ways.</u> 15 Who <u>is the Almighty,</u> that <u>we should serve Him?</u> And <u>what profit</u> do we have if <u>we pray to Him?</u> 16 <u>Indeed their prosperity [good] is not in their hand;</u> <u>The counsel of the wicked is far from me.</u></p> <p>17 “How often is the lamp of the wicked put out? <u>How often does their destruction come upon them,</u> <u>The sorrows God distributes in His anger?</u> 18 They are <u>like straw before the wind,</u> <u>And like chaff that a storm carries away.</u></p>	<p>4=Q1 (It is the rhetorical question. Job’s saying is not his complaint against man, here not his impatient complaint against Zophar, but his raising a question impatiently is to God about his present pain &amp; suffering’s reason. Job’s mind or heart commits a judgment to God, not to a man, like Paul’s mind 1 Corinthians 4:3-4<sup>15</sup>)</p> <p>7-12= (To refute Zophar’s counsel about the pain and suffering caused by sin, wickedness, or evil, Job pointed out the wicked person’s success or increase such as long life, power, well descendants, seen blessings, or seen prosperity on the earth. And the wicked person might perish on the earth. Also, the righteous person or whoever lives by faith after the Spirit might be prosperous, or might have been persecuted, with one of the five reasons. So, the prosperity gospel in which a righteous person is always prosperous on the earth is against God in the light of the phrase the “godliness is a means of gain” on the Scripture. See above a chart – earthly success is not always heavenly success. Psalm 1:2-4,6; Mat 5:11-12; 1 Tim 6:5-6<sup>16</sup>)</p> <p>13= (Job points out the view after death, not the limited view during life on earth, i.e., heavenly view from earthly view; or eternal view from earthly short life view. The wicked people enjoy wealth during their lives but they suddenly are dead, ultimately the lake of fire Rev 20:15<sup>17</sup>)</p> <p>15-16= (We unlike the wicked people serve the Almighty God; even if we pray to God, we have no profit. Indeed, in their hand there is no good; the wicked people’s counsel is totally different from me; Like Asaph, Job began to envy the prosperity of the wicked but in the sight of God, in the view after death, in the heavenly view, or in the eternal view, he put his trust in the Lord God even at no-seen profit or his present pain &amp; suffering Psalm 73:3, 17, 28<sup>18</sup>)</p> <p>17-18= (Often the wicked is destructive in God’s anger, like straw or chaff in Psalm 1:4, see above)</p>
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<sup>15</sup> 1 Corinthians 4:3-4 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. <sup>4</sup> For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.

<sup>16</sup> Psalm 1:2-4,6 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. <sup>4</sup> The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

<sup>6</sup> For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish; Mat 5:11-12 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you; 1 Tim 6:5-6 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself. <sup>6</sup> Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

<sup>17</sup> Rev 20:15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

<sup>18</sup> Psalm 73:3, 17, 28<sup>3</sup> For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked. <sup>17</sup> Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end. <sup>28</sup> But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, That I may declare all Your works.

19 *They say, 'God lays up one's iniquity for his children';*  
 Let Him recompense him, that he may know *it*.  
 20 Let his eyes see his destruction,  
 And let him drink of the wrath of the Almighty.  
 21 For what does he care about his household after him, When the number of his months is cut in half?  
 22 "Can anyone teach God knowledge,  
Since He judges those on high?"  
 23 One dies in his full strength,  
 Being wholly at ease and secure;  
 24 His pails[breasts] are full of milk,  
 And the marrow of his bones is moist.  
 25 Another man dies in the bitterness of his soul,  
Never having eaten with pleasure.  
 26 They lie down alike in the dust,  
 And worms cover them.  
 27 "Look, I know your thoughts,  
 And the schemes *with which* you would wrong me.  
 28 For you say,  
 'Where is the house of the prince?  
 And where is the tent,  
 The dwelling place of the wicked?'  
 29 Have you not asked those who travel the road?  
 And do you not know their signs?  
 30 For the wicked are reserved for the day of doom;  
 They shall be brought out on the day of wrath.  
 31 Who condemns his way to his face?  
 And who repays him for what he has done?  
 32 Yet he shall be brought to the grave,  
 And a vigil kept over the tomb.  
 33 The clods of the valley shall be sweet to him;  
Everyone shall follow him,  
As countless have gone before him.

19= (the iniquity or sin of a person influenced his house-members, in OT time 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> generations' living together in the house. But each person bears each committed sin/ righteousness Exodus 20:5-6; Ezekiel 18:20<sup>19</sup> )

22=Q2 (Nobody can teach God any knowledge because omniscient God judges all of them including those on high. We need God the Spirit teaches us all things. 1 John 3:20; John 14:26; Heb 9:27<sup>20</sup>)

23-26= (We see it. This is life, this is reality! Job is facing reality. A person is prosperous and another lives in bitterness. All of them return into dust through worms' digesting the dead bodies. Christianity is about reality or practicability, rather than imagination or phantom, unlike other philosophies or religions. Jesus' resurrection was historically real, not imaginary. God the intelligent designer created the nature, that God never violates the law of nature such as on the earth the law of gravity, the law of the 1<sup>st</sup> or the 2<sup>nd</sup> thermodynamics, or heritable gene. For example, graduates of other denominational seminaries registered the School of ministry at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa for the practicability. There is real God or practicable His word. Heaven and earth will pass away but His word will fulfill in full Gen 3:19; Mat 24:35<sup>21</sup>)

27 = (Job knows Zopher's thoughts concerning Job are wrong)

28-33= (Zopher doesn't know Job's clear situation but his thought is applying to Job, making a wrong analysis even if everyone died in the past, dies in the present, or shall die in the future)

<sup>19</sup> Exodus 20:5-6 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.; Ezekiel 18:20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

<sup>20</sup> 1 John 3:20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things; John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you; Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

<sup>21</sup> Gen 3:19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return; Mat 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

34 How then can you comfort me with empty words,  
Since falsehood remains in your answers?”

34=Q3 (Zopher's counsel is empty words and falsehood because the reason of Job's present pain and suffering is not caused by sin or evil but by the divine good purpose to be revealed later. So, from here, we can learn the counsel to another to be so careful. Unless you know a clear situation of a painful/ suffering person, it's better to pray than to counsel him/her. When a clear situation is revealed, ask the Lord to give His counsel rather than your counsel, and follow His revelation, i.e., reveal an applicable word of omniscient God to him/her, away from your human wisdom. Pray for him/her. Finally, keep his/her confidentiality unless it is against God.)

Note: Most Christians say the Bible is important, but rarely study every word in the Bible and commit it to the Lord. So, it's better to study it and live accordingly after the Spirit for the Lord (2 Tim 2:15). This online word for global crusade in effect develops from the expositional sermon (KJV), into spiritual transformation in daily love fellowship with the Lord throughout the Bible Study (NKJV) -- *All Scripture Expository Study from verse by verse Inductive Studies* -- of which application is the Discipleship and Spiritual Formation, closer to the image of Christ. We think that "Any human opinion is not really important rather than what God says. So, the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible per se. But the opinion to make us understand God's Word is acceptable (2 Corinthians 10:5)." Further, for the application, a life or spiritual experience might be helpful to understand how to apply an understood word in the text column, but it is temperately used like Paul, because nobody should think above that actual experience (2 Cor 12:6, Jer 23:28; Ne 8:8).

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"For I Consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles. <sup>6</sup> Even though I am untrained in speech, yet I am not in knowledge. But we have been thoroughly manifested among you in all things" (2 Corinthians 11:5-6).

**Truth matters, regardless of online, offline, indoor, or outdoor services. The most love of God the truth may be expressed with a donation, regardless of direct, mail, or online ways.**



<https://www.calvarychapelanaheimhills.com/OnlineSermon2023.htm>

**Thank you everybody. Come to Jesus!**

## ***GOD's Continuing Work Through His Church Acts 29***

Pray for continually "Let go, let God" because CCAH church (His sheep) is His church. "The Commentary of the Bible By Verse" is coming for this & future generation.

E.g. 2020 <https://calvarychapelanaheimhills.com/letGod.pdf>

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).*

Who can be against God, practically the  
Scripture(λόγος LOGOS or the written word)?

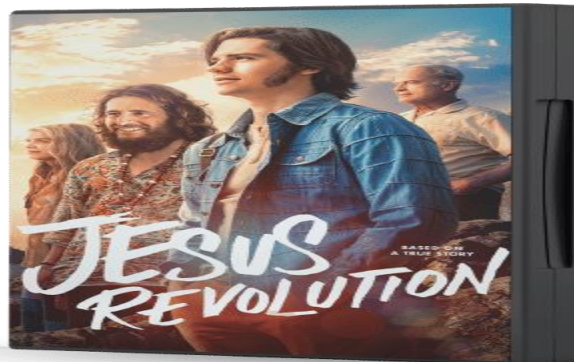
**Thank the Lord For the CGN International  
Conference at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa on 6/25-  
28 in 2023 Blessed by His grace.**



June 25-28, 2023 | Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa

at <https://conference.calvarychapel.com/>

**THANKS FOR HARVEST CRUSADE** AT 6:00 PM PDT on July 1-2  
(Doors open 4:00 PM PDT) @ [Honda Center, 2695 E Katella Ave, Anaheim, CA 92806](https://www.hondacenter.com/)



Keep on Prayer for Pastoral Training of Asia (PTA)'s evangelists and missions by the Holy Spirit in Philippines, Thai, Burma, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, S Korea, Japan, etc.



Dear C.C. Anaheim Hills,

Thank you for your  
Prayers & support  
for our mission  
love,

Jim & Standa & P.T.A.

**“The Spirit Led Daily Life in the Whole Counsel of God for its Beliefs and their Consequent Practices”** by *CCAHA's Vision*