

Jon Murrel Responses to John Keller's questions Dec 2021

Hi John,

I hope this finds you well. My apologies, I noticed this is the second time you emailed me and somehow I missed the first one. That my fault for not checking properly.

We appreciate everything you guys do for us and are thankful for all your prayers and support. We couldn't do what we are doing here with out you guys.

As you know, the last two years have been difficult for everyone throughout the world and over here is no different. The government over here has been difficult to deal with recently. They have been practically forcing people to get a vaccine for the covid virus. While i get why of what they are trying to do. The way they are going about it is against the constitution of the country. Many people are having difficulty accepting that and while they cant really force people to take the vaccine they have made it to where if you don't have the vaccine you cant go to work or even go to the grocery store to buy food and basic necessities. There has been a mandate by the mayor (not the president) put in place that starting January 1, 2022 all public and private facilities are not allowed to permit any unvaccinated people to enter their place of business or even cater to them under the threat of permanent closure of said facilities. This has now been extended to religious gatherings, churches and similar groups. So basically what that means is that we are not allowed to meet together on Sundays unless our members are fully vaccinated. On top of that we are supposed to turn away anyone who is unvaccinated or there will be penalties. Rest assured we will still continue to meet together on Sundays as normal. Many of our members (myself included) have been very hesitant to get the vaccines because of all the negative things we have seen, heard and researched. Some of the vaccines are quite deadly. We personally know of peoples who have taken the different vaccines and bad things have resulted because of it. We know someone who had a relative die, not too long ago, 2 days after getting the vaccine. I get what the government is trying to do but this isn't the right way and many filipinos are quite upset about it. As they should be. To make things worse, they are telling any foreigner to stay out of it. That if they don't like the way things are going they are free to leave the country and go home. Anyone (foreigner) who causes trouble or doesn't comply will be blacklisted and kicked out of the country. This is just too over the top but what can we do. Honestly I'm not sure how far they will go with this but the government has a reputation of making decisions and not following though so we shall see.

I know this sounds really bad but rest assured, RIGHT NOW its is not as bad as it sounds... YET... but come January who knows how things will play out. Please be praying for the country over here and for the leaders to make the right choices. Also pray for our brothers and sisters here to have peace of mind and patience in this strange situation.

With all the restrictions that we have been under these past 2 years its been difficult to deal with but we are doing the best we can. The Bible Study Center is still open. We are

still having classes with students and members alike over zoom and skype. We also continue to have some face to face classes as well. The work in the mountains continues and we have had several baptisms in the last few months both in the city and up in the mountains with the parents of those kids my wife and brother in law work with. The work is still going strong but who knows how things will play out in the future.

The children have been stuck at home since the pandemic started. We've had to homeschool them but it's nice for them to get out of the house once in a while. So far we have just had to wait from times where the rules have lessened enough to allow them out. I think during this whole ordeal they have been out of the house maybe three times. I've come to the conclusion that kids shouldn't be cooped up in the house for as long as they have. Especially at their age. They need to be able to run around and burn some energy but we do what we can when we can.

Our team still plans to keep working until either the good Lord comes or the government kicks us out (that shouldn't happen so don't worry). Our plans for the next year (Lord willing) is to keep working with the Bible Study Center both online and face to face and continue working with the kids and their parents up in the mountains throughout the next year. Depending on how things play out over the next few months, we may have to adjust some things but we will keep working. We just ask for you all to continue to pray for us and the brotherhood over here. We will keep you all posted on how things play out over the next couple of months. Hopefully things won't be as bad as they could be but that remains to be seen.

Thank you once again for everything you all do and keep those prayers coming.

In Him,
Jon Murrell

1st Cor. 10:13