The Legacy of Simon from Cyrene

Binhi sang Pagtuo

April 21, 2014

Dear Friends,

Happy Resurrection Day from Hongkong!* 

One of the most interesting verses not found in other Gospels is the account in Mark 15:21:

"A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country and they forced him to carry the cross."

Why did Mark mention Alexander and Rufus?

Tradition tells us that the sons of Simon Cyrene - Rufus and Alexander became Christian missionaries. In fact, some scholars argue that the Rufus mentioned by Paul in Romans 16:13 is the son of Simon of Cyrene. Some have also link Simon himself with the "men of Cyrene" who preached the Gospel to the Greeks in Acts 11:20.

Simon was just a bystander looking at the spectacle of a crucifixion. But when he agreed (or forced to agree) to help Jesus carry the cross, his life was never the same again. He was transformed. And he shared his meaningful experience with Jesus to his sons. The also became followers of Jesus Christ.

We need to follow the legacy of Simon from Cyrene. The legacy of burden sharing (helping bear the cross of others) and passing on the Good News of Salvation to the next generation especially our children.
May God bless us all!

Sincerely,

Rev. Francis Neil G. Jalando-on

*We are here for a working vacation. Please pray for our ministry with the New Beginnings Christian Fellowship of Hongkong.*