



GROUNDING IN HUMILITY

By Mark Cabural, Adventist World Aviation-Philippines

Growing up, my parents always gave my siblings and me a lesson or two in humility. As a kid, I also realized that being humble can help me make more friends. But as I slowly grew into a teenager and now as a working person, I can really say that the lessons I learned about humility have helped me a lot. There were times when my arrogance spoke louder in my head, but God was always there to humble me. You will not like it when God humbles you, so be humble at all times.

In the mission field, being the guy who takes care of all the base properties is a big responsibility,

in addition to being an aircraft mechanic. There are times when I do maintenance in and out of the mission house, and I get too frustrated as I do not know that much about everything. Yes, watching tutorial videos is fine for finishing tasks, but note that the person in the content we read and watch is far more experienced than we are. The outcome, even when following the same steps, might be different. Sometimes, in situations like this, people tend to rely only on their own knowledge to find and solve problems, and in about 70% of those times, relying on their own judgments without consulting often results in failures and additional damage.

Luckily for me, even though I'm the only one doing these things for now, I'm blessed to have known people who are experts in what they do, just like when I met *Tatay* (a respectful term for older men in the senior-citizen age group). His name is Aldz Arroyo, but the locals in Narra who knew him call him Capricorn. I don't know if they call him that because his electrical wiring repair shop was named Capricorn, or if there's some history behind it. While I was watching him repair the alternator on our tractor, I told him that I'm fond of asking questions and watching others do their jobs. He commented that some people leave their cars to be fixed and wait for the job to be done; others are frustrated by the findings of his troubleshooting, maybe because of the cost of fixing something. Some don't care as long as their cars are working just fine. I was absolutely satisfied with the service he provided as he troubleshooted our truck and tractor. He will not only point out the problem, but also give some advice on what to do and its alternatives.

When we practice humility, we will surely meet similar people in our lives who do the same. When

we serve God in His ministry, we should always be humble and teachable. In the field, there will be people who will sometimes test us, either by hitting us where we are weak or by tolerating our arrogance, refusing to see any mistakes in what we do, and forgetting our purpose in serving. I know for sure that no one, even in religious organizations, is safe from this. That is why, in everything we do, we must always be humble enough to recognize that we cannot go about our lives without God's guidance.

God's help comes in many ways, just like *Tatay*, who helped me get our truck and tractor fixed. We should never be shy or arrogant to ask for help. I always agree with the famous quotation "No man is an island" by John Donne in 1624. The bible also said in James 4:6, "But He gives us more grace." That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." With that being said, I will always pray for all of us, in and out of the mission field, to have a humble heart and a teachable spirit.



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