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Introduction to Global Engagement

Biographical Reading Review of on The Presence of My Enemies by Garcia Burnham

Garcia Burman was born in Cairo, Illinois, married to her husband Martin Burnham in may 28th 1983 in Kansas City. The couple have children all of them were home schooling in the Philippines Martin Burnham was born in September 1959. The couple had served as missionaries in the Philippines for 17 years which Martin was a jungle pilot delivering mail supplies and transporting sick and injured people to medical facilities. He's wife was also serving in various roles including supporting her husband's roles at the field and homeschooling the children.

In May 2001, while they were celebrating their eighteenth-year wedding anniversary in a Resort called Dos Palmas, a group of Muslims called the Abu Sayyaf Group Which was a theorist group who were connected to Osama Bin laden. They took them and other more people to captivity on an island called Basilan Island.

Garcia and her husband remained in captivity for more than a year been moving from jungle to jungle running with the group who was pursuing by the national military Philippines soldiers that attempt to help rescue the captives. During that year they were people who were negotiated with the group for the couples freedom, meanwhile the Burnham were facing many trial in different ways ,likes; near starvation, tired , hungry, frequent guns battles ,seeing deaths among them, running with bear footed, sleeping in

places that wasn't presentable for human been to sleep on , constant exhaustion, bitter ,mad, frustrated, upset and asking God so many question and mad at God for what happened to them .García realized that God was there and she started to asked God to help her ,she started seeking God guidance in the situation and she asked God to change her, and make her love this people and she became to love the bad people who was around , forgive them and they become to be the only family that her and her husband has in the jungle. Even though the people were theorist and Muslim, and bad Garcia pursued her faith, and pray for them, sing for them and becoming friend with them. Everything that she wanted God to do for her she prayed about it, she even prayed for a hamburger! She asked God if he wanted to teach her and her husband a lesson and she finds out a lot of what God wanted to teach her about how that he love everyone , God loves her enemy and God wanted her to do the same and to forgive, and to be humble no matter what. Garcia's husband Martin died in that tragic kidnapping captivity from a gunshot at the jungle in an early botches rescue. And finally, Gracia was set free thanks be to God and the people who were praying for her. What have learned about this tragical true story ,is that as a missionary you don't know what can happen to you in the field ,its might be fun it's my not be, not every place that we go as missionary is safe ,not that we can come back well and alive, but are we willing to follow the call of God , walking with Christ even though sometime its can be a lot challenging than we think if it's our calling we have to pursue it and are we willing to forgot our whole self and ready to die for Christ. I learn that with love and inner peace from Christ in our life even in the midst of trouble time we can survive anything, I also

learn that not taking a simple bath is nothing compared to what we can go through in a mission field. Are we willing to accept everything for Christ?

Grace and her husband were amazing missionaries who allowed God to lead them in that jungle, even they started wrestling with God by being discouraged and angry and bitter with the situation but at the end they know that God can change the situation or change them so they can cope in the presence of their Enemies.

The book: IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES.

Biography web: of Gracia and Martin Life.