

## 81 years after liberation: Pre-Lenten Reading: Psalms!

February 2-5<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of Mary & Carroll and Maren's liberation from Japanese prison camp in Manila. In the midst of the battle -that would cost the lives of up to 200 thousand Filipinos- 1,250 army & civilian prisoners were liberated from Bilibid (that liberation and the month-long Battle for Manila is a long, confusing and terrifying story).

The first message that Carroll & Mary were able to send to the states said: "**We were like them that dream**" The families back home could fill in the rest of Psalm 126: "**Then was our mouth filled with laughter: and our tongue with singing...The Lord hath done great things for us : whereof we are glad...They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, ...shall doubtless come again with rejoicing...**"

I feel that 2026 is a 'time' [καὶρός!] for psalm memorization. "*If everybody knew the psalms, never would the world go wrong!*" attributed to Donald Trump 1/6/2021

Psalm 27— "**The Lord is my Light and My salvation--whom shall I fear?**" Mary Elizabeth's favorite "behind barbed wire psalm". "**The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**" --now, we'll continue and think Prisoner surrounded by the 'sons of heaven.' --

Reading through the Psalter is good discipline, but omg the Psalmist (s) can often turn a lament into a tirade: See Psalm 137—"By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and there we wept...O daughter Babylon...Happy shall they be who take your little ones and dash them against the rock!"

So, let's talk –for a change—*Laments!* Psalm:

6/13/22(!)/25/31/42(!)/43/51(!)/54/61/69(!)\*/71/77/86/102/130(!)/142/143

O.K. Praise. 8/29/33/47/103/117/135/145-150!

And Thanksgiving! 18/30/32(!)/116/118/138

Keep psalms in mind during these Septuagesima to Quinquagesima times.

\*Psalm 69 was our psalm in 2005-6. Tom and Carol & I were beleaguered at Holden Village and prayed that the Lord would hear this prayer and favor us with love. More on all that, some day.

