

## Daily Devotion For September 15, 2022

**“Encourage one another** and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

I Thessalonians 5:11

It was almost two years ago on September 25, 2020 that I heard from Pat and Shirley Wong that Pat was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of leukemia. Yesterday at our Wednesday Bible Study, Shirley shared with us that Pat’s doctors have recommended that he go on hospice care. When Pat asked “how much time he had?” the doctor responded with a few weeks to a couple of months.

Over the past two years, the Wong family has given thanks to El Estero for Dr. Cary and Joyce Gota and Dr. Mary Ichiuji who have been instrumental in sharing their medical expertise as well as their support and **encouragement**. Both Pat and Shirley have expressed to me how much they appreciate the love, support and **encouragement** that they have received from the members of El Estero.

Like each of us, the Thessalonian Christians faced their share of struggles. Paul wrote to **encourage** them, reminding them of their faith and love and hope in Christ. And with these assurances they could keep **encouraging one another** and building each other up.

The gift of encouragement is important in our lives. Encouragement is a gift in the home, the workplace, the church and wherever we find ourselves. We can come alongside others and be there for one another. We can listen, comfort, console, and affirm. It’s a way of living out the command to love one another.

**Thought For Today:** Take time to recall the people who’ve been encouragers in your life. They are the ones who were there when life was tough. They were the ones who listened to you when others just talked. Today, ask yourself, ‘When was the last time I encouraged someone?’

**Today’s Prayer Focus:** Continue to keep Pat and Shirley Wong in prayer as well as Bob McIntyre, Nancy Ichiuji, Tom Gunter, Alan Durant, among others. Deo Volente.