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# THE VALIANTE FAMILY

Equipping and Training National Pastors in the Philippines

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Dear Supporters and Friends,

MINISTRY CONTINUES AS WE WAIT. There are two different kinds of waiting in life. The first is waiting for something mundane—or even unpleasant—to pass, like getting stuck in traffic, or sitting in an emergency room hospital bed. We hate this kind of waiting and usually try to find ways to distract ourselves and kill time. That kind of waiting isn't much fun. However, the second type of waiting could be described as "eager anticipation." This is when we, with hopeful expectation, are waiting for something important to happen. As we wait, our minds and hearts are consumed with the prospects it will bring while we actively prepare for it. We experience this eager anticipation as we await the birth of a child, or wait for Christmas morning to come—and for Christians—as we eagerly look for the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11-13).

Our family, just like so many others during this unique and challenging time of COVID, is called to wait. However, we are not simply "killing time." Instead we are eagerly anticipating, and working toward our return to the Philippines. Just this morning, I received a message from a dear pastor in the Philippines asking how I was doing, and letting me know that the students of Haven of Grace Seminary are praying that God would allow us to return in 2021. This too is our prayer. If God opens the doors, our hope is to be back at Haven of Grace Seminary in August for the launch of the fall semester. In fact, we already have a visiting professor, Dr. Matt



Walker, lined up to teach a course on counselling. Naturally, we submit all of our plans to the Lord. If this past year has taught me anything, it is to "loosely hold" on to the plans I make, and [attempt to] find joy and purpose in God's ultimate design. As I was reminded today: "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs His steps" (Proverbs 16:9).



As we wait, we have been blessed with numerous opportunities to continue to serve ministries both here in the States, as well in the Philippines. Our course offered through Haven of Grace Seminary during our fall semester titled, GRACE: A BIBLICAL AND

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY is now available on our website ([havenofgraceph.org](http://havenofgraceph.org)). Our primary goal for this course was to continue ministering to our students in the Philippines. In the next few weeks, a second course—a 5-week exegetical study of Philippians—will also be available.

I had a unique ministry opportunity in the month of November to take part in a virtual Filipino Missions Conference at Maranatha Baptist Church. Due to COVID, the church was not able to host its usual in-person conference, so I was grateful to speak remotely in two general sessions, as well as to take part in two Q&A sessions. We are thankful for our continued partnership in the Gospel, even though we are 8,500+ miles away.



Although we have not travelled much over the past couple of months, we have had a couple of opportunities to minister in local churches. In the middle of November, we visited Bible Baptist Church (Benton, PA), and were glad to reconnect with Pastor and Mrs. Moseley, and the folks there as I preached in the services, and gave an update on our ministry.

At the end of November, I was scheduled to preach at Bensalem Baptist Church, however, due to sickness, I had to cancel. We likely came down with COVID, since I lost my sense of smell for about 2 weeks as I battled with a sore throat and slight congestion. Some of the other members of our family dealt with minor symptoms as well. Later, in the month of December, we were very sad to hear of

the death of a dear friend from COVID. Pastor Jon Brandt faithfully served at La Junta Baptist Tabernacle for over 35 years. He had been Sarah's pastor since she was a little girl, and had a major impact on her life. He officiated our wedding some 17+ years ago, and as one of our supporting pastors, I counted him as a mentor and friend. He will truly be missed, and our continued prayers are for his dear wife, Ruth Ann, and the church family at La Junta.



Last weekend (January 10), our family had the chance to travel down to Cary, North Carolina, as I preached at College Park Baptist Church. It was such a blessing to spend time with Pastor Matt Walker (upcoming guest professor at Haven of Grace), along with his wife, Becky, and the wonderful folks at the church. It was truly a refreshing time of fellowship. We were encouraged when the church took our family on for support at the end of the evening service. We are grateful to partner with a church and a pastor that has a heart for the work of Missions both here in the States and across the globe.

Once more, thank you for your continued support and especially for your prayers on our behalf.

Serving Christ,  
The Valiantes  
2 Corinthians 5:14-15

*If you have not already, please visit our website ([valiantes.com](http://valiantes.com)) for regular updates. You can also subscribe to our website to receive updates directly to your email inbox. Also, if you would like to **support our family financially**, visit our website and click on the "Support" or "Donate" tab on the menu.*

#### **Prayer Requests:**

- AUGUST, AUGUST, AUGUST! We are praying toward a return to the Philippines in August (though there is much that will need to fall into place for this to happen)
- For our supporting church, La Junta Baptist Tabernacle, as they mourn the loss of their pastor, Jon Brandt, and for wisdom as they make decisions moving forward
- For our online course on Philippians

#### **Praises To God:**

- For a new supporting church – College Park Baptist (Cary, NC)
- For Sarah feeling a little better (she had iron infusions in December that have seemed to help). She has a follow-up appointment to check her iron levels next week.