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# THE VALIANTE FAMILY

Equipping and Training National Pastors in the Philippines

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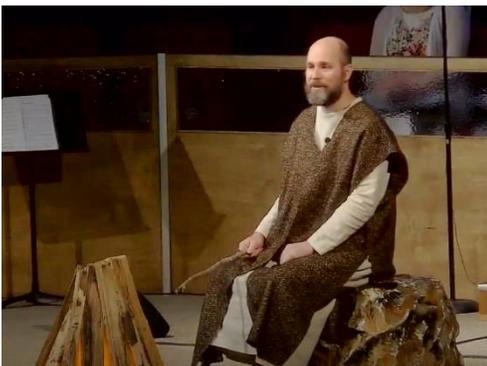


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May 19, 2021

Dear Supporters and Friends,

**HELPING CHURCHES AND PASTORS.** Over the past couple months I have had the opportunity to minister in a variety of capacities. From preaching and teaching adults and teens to acting in an Easter Program (see the pictures below from Lighthouse Baptist Church's Easter Program), the Lord has given opportunities to serve. In just the past three weeks I have filled the pulpit on both Sundays and Wednesday nights for Pastors who were either sick or traveling. I can only imagine how difficult this season of ministry has been for pastors seeking to fulfil their obligations, while at the same time taking every precaution if they feel sick, or if they have been exposed to someone with COVID.





Our schedule over the next couple of weeks will be full as well. This Saturday I am speaking to teens at a 5-on-5 Soccer Outreach (Calvary Baptist Church - Bloomsburg, PA). Then, the following Saturday I will be officiating a wedding in Delaware. The next day, (Lord willing) I will preach at the 50<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary Celebration for Emmanuel Baptist Church (Millville, PA).

Then, Tuesday, June 1, we fly to Colorado for a month and a half while we visit family and supporting churches. During the first full week of June I will also be speaking for a Junior High Camp at Camp Salvation. During our trip, we are looking forward to reconnecting with Sarah's family, as well as the many churches and individuals who have faithfully supported our ministry over the past few years. We are especially

eager to visit La Junta Baptist Tabernacle (Sarah's home church). In December, La Junta's pastor, Jon Brandt, a dear friend and mentor, went to be with the Lord. Just this past Sunday, the church called Tim Muth, Sarah's older brother, as the lead pastor. I know our first service with them will both a time of grieving, and rejoicing.

The situation in the Philippines remains in a state of flux, and therefore the timing of our return remains in flux as well. Unfortunately, the Philippines is entirely dependent upon other countries (like the United States, China, Russia et al.) for the procurement of vaccines. Presently, just over 1/2 of 1% of the Philippines has been fully vaccinated (or close to 700,000 people) and just over 2% of the population (or about 2 million people) have received the first dose. (Compare this to the US where the figures are 40% and 60% respectively). The Philippines is a long way off from achieving herd immunity.

Based on the Philippine government's stated goals, they hope to have 50 million doses of the vaccine administered by the end of the year. However, due to most of these vaccines being two doses, this will only cover about a quarter (1/4) of the population—an insufficient number to effectively stem the tide of infections. Needless to say, we are left in a state of uncertainty regarding when the Philippines will reopen, and beyond that, when it will be feasible for our family to return. Although we have been praying for a return in August, those hopes become more and more dim as the pandemic lingers. So, if we cannot return as a family in August, there is the hope that I will be able to return for a couple of weeks in the fall to teach a block course. We appreciate your prayers as we seek to determine the best course of action moving forward.

**FINAL NOTE:** Many of you have prayed for Sarah's health struggles (losing iron). We are thankful that the most recent procedure (as far as we can tell) seems to have helped with this issue. We offer our thanks to God for this answer to prayer.

Once more, we are so grateful for your prayers and support as we continue the work of training Filipinos for the gospel ministry.

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:**

- WISDOM, WISDOM, WISDOM. Please pray for wisdom in the timing of our return to the Philippines.
- For upcoming ministry opportunities: Teen Soccer Outreach / Wedding / Church Anniversary
- For our children to thrive spiritually
- For safety as we travel to Colorado

**Praises To God:**

- Sarah's health is improving, and the most recent procedure has seemed to help keep her iron levels up.
- God continues to provide our needs!