



# THE VALIANTE FAMILY

Equipping and Training National Pastors in the Philippines



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Dear Supporters and Friends,

THE SECOND SEMESTER AT HAVEN OF GRACE IS IN FULL SWING! It was good to jump back into classes at the beginning of December. It is hard to believe we are now already 1/3 of the way through the semester! I am teaching 2 separate classes of Systematic Theology 1, which includes Bibliology (Study of the Bible), and Theology Proper (Study of God the Father), along with Greek Grammar 2. All told, we will have the opportunity to train about 40 men this semester. What a privilege!



In addition to the start of the semester, we also took part of a number of special services during the months of December and January. On Sunday, December 15, I was given the honor of being the guest speaker at Community Bible Church (Haguimit). What made this an extra special service was that it also served as the pastoral installation service for one of the young men in our seminary. Pastor Danilo Faburada has been like a son to us since he has been living on campus while taking his studies here at Haven of Grace. So, to see one of the young men we have been training take on this ministry responsibility offers so much encouragement to me personally, as well as to our supporters and partners in the Gospel.



Focusing on the family side of things, thank you for those who prayed for us during this first Christmas Holiday Season away from the States. It can be hard to be away from family during this time, but our Christmas was joyful and blessed. A special blessing was to have a Christmas gathering (on December 27) with other American missionary families who live within an hour's drive of us. We were able to welcome them down to the campus of Haven of Grace and we all had a really nice time together. As you can see from the picture below (far left), the kids had a blast spending time with their "missionary cousins" and getting presents in the gift exchange. We were also able to keep up with some of our own family Christmas traditions including making chocolate covered pretzels, sugar muffins on Christmas morning, and having homemade ravioli (pictured below to the far right) for Christmas dinner.



We also enjoyed time with the neighbor children celebrating both Christmas and New Year's. For Christmas we had a special time reading the Christmas story and talking about the meaning of Jesus' coming to earth. Then for New Year's the families closest to Haven of Grace (these are the parents of the children who come to visit most days) invited us out to a New Year's Celebration that was filled with games, fun, and lots of candy! Our kids really enjoyed that!



One final note, I am sure many of you have heard about the Taal volcanic activity in the Philippines. Although we are not presently affected by this, many of our friends up North in Manila are. Please be in prayer for them, as well as for those who have been impacted by earthquakes to our south in Mindinao. We have been relatively unaffected by natural disasters, although about a month or so ago we had one small earthquake (the epicenter was on the island to our West) that caused our home to "wobble." We, however, did not sustain any damage. When the earthquake happened, I was sitting at the table, and notice it starting to sway. I though Micah (who was sitting there with me) was playing around and bumping the table. Later I found out it was actually an earthquake. Needless to say, we appreciate your prayers for our safety, as well as those to our North and South.

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

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#### **Prayer Requests:**

- For a great 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester
- For health and safety for our family
- For preaching opportunities coming up (I will be preaching to about 400 young people over the next few days)

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

- For a great start to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester (many new students are enrolled)
- For our family feeling more settled in the Philippines
- For a good time of fellowship on "Christmas" with fellow American Missionary Families
- For God impacting lives through messages I have preached this past month