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# THE VALIANTE FAMILY

Equipping and Training National Pastors in the Philippines

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April 20, 2020

Dear Supporters and Friends,

MAN PLANS, GOD ORDAINS. Obviously, the one central focus at the forefront of everyone's mind is COVID-19. It seems, in many ways, that the whole world has come to a standstill. However, God continues to prove His faithfulness and show His sovereignty.

As many of you know, we had plans to return back to the States in the middle of March. Due to the lockdown in the Philippines, all domestic flights were cancelled, and we were not able to make our international flight. Although this was a disappointment, our family had been dealing with so much sickness in the weeks leading up to our departure date, it would have been impossible for us to travel at that point anyway. So, we began looking into flights after the lockdown, and purchased tickets for April 20. But once again, our plans were thwarted. The lockdown was extended to the end of April. So, now, we have tickets in place for May 1. Thankfully everyone in our home is now healthy, and will be able to travel, as long as the restrictions are lifted. Of course, we would appreciate your prayers for our family as we make preparations to travel.

With the delay in our departure, this means that we will have to delay the start of the first semester. Initially, we were planning to fly back in the middle of July. Now, it looks like the middle or end of August. This will give us enough time to renew our Visas (without having to start the whole process over again), and should afford us enough weeks to complete the first semester before the end of the year. Then, our plan would be to start the second semester in January 2021 and finish by the end of March.



However, in everything I write, there is an important phrase to include: If the Lord wills. And truly, this is not something we simply, “tack on” to our plans. Instead, it is at the heart of everything we plan. We want God’s will. Now, it is easy to say that. It is far more difficult to mean that when God disrupts our plans. So, we will fly out on May 1... if the Lord so chooses. We will be back in late August, if that is God’s desire. We will spend another 9 months training national pastors here in the Philippines for the glory of God, if that is a part of God’s will. So, we have plenty of plans in place, and in time God will reveal whether our plans line up with His own.

As far as ministry goes, please be in prayer for a rice distribution planned for later this week. Haven of Grace will, Lord willing) distribute rice to two Barangays (Utod and Patic) to help during this difficult time. This distribution will cover approximately 650 families. Pray for Gospel opportunities, bridges to be built, and the love of Christ to be shown.

Over the past month, with plenty of down time, this has been a great opportunity to enjoy our family. So in this update, I figured I would highlight some of the joys we have had with our children. Our little Emi, though a handful at times, is a bright beam of sunshine in our home. She is adored by everyone, and is very friendly. She waves and says hello to just about anyone she meets. Jonas is full of energy and passion. You can see him in the picture below proudly standing by the batch of “mud balls” he made.



Lydia does very well here as she spends her time taking care of her dog, and cats, and stuffed animals. She has a lot of love and she, along with Kiersten, have even been helping with lots of baking and cooking. She has an adventurous spirit. Kiersten is very creative as she comes up with stories for her books. She just took up crochet. She also enjoys going outside, taking care of the kittens, and has a remarkable knack for catching tiny crabs that scurry along the beach (pictured below middle). Micah keeps getting taller and taller. He is really growing up, and enjoys the time with his siblings, working on Lego, and video chatting with cousins and friends from the States.



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:**

- For our travel back to the States
- For health for each member of our family during our travels
- For the rice distribution to the homes near Haven of Grace

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

- For a really great ending to our 1st Year at Haven of Grace
- For our family getting healthy once more
- For God’s provisions to our family, even during the quarantine