



Mark, Tess, John, & Daniel

# The Varney Family to the Philippines

Holding fast the  
Faithful Word



Dear Friends,

December 25, 2015

## A TRIBUTE TO DAD

“...the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD” (Job 1:21).

In the middle of November, I received a call from my family regarding my Dad, Paul Varney. He was just a few days away from his 100th birthday when he took a fall, breaking some ribs, and eventually winding up in the hospital. My family arranged for me to come home to Ohio, and I arrived on the evening of Dad's birthday. His condition was not good, and within a short time, his health worsened. We brought him home, where he spent his last week with the family. At sunrise on December 3rd, Dad passed into the presence of the Lord.

Dad believed on the Lord Jesus Christ when he was 38 years old. In time, he began to put off the old man, and started serving the Lord in a variety of ways. For 25 years, he wrote a newspaper column, called “Food for Thought”, which led readers to consider the holy scriptures in light of current events. He also created and maintained a series of literature racks for the distribution of gospel tracts. He enjoyed visiting the elderly and infirm, whether in nursing facilities, or private homes. He commonly carried home-grown vegetables to those who were in need, as well as literature and Bibles.

Dad was an unashamed believer in the finished work of the Lord Jesus, in that he died for our sins, was buried, and raised again for our justification. He was a faithful witness for the Lord, and very apt to testify: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9). He and Mother were the first to witness to me and my brothers of the grace of God. Had they not made efforts to testify to us about the gospel and to keep us in church, life could have been quite different for us. Our home was frequently opened to welcome missionary families, supported by our local church; and many afternoons were spent around the family table, discussing the work of foreign missions. These impressions, formed at a young age, have never left me, and undoubtedly have helped to make me what I am today.

So today I honor my father. A humble man, a farmer, a faithful husband for 71 years, a father of four boys, and a faithful witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. “Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise)” (Ephesians 6:2).

Sincerely,  
Mark Varney and Family



# EOTEM

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