



Mark, Tess, John, & Daniel

THE VARNEY FAMILY TO THE PHILIPPINES

Holding fast the
 Faithful Word



Dear friends,

March, 2021

During this first quarter of 2021, our family is remembering the 18th anniversary of our coming to the Philippines. By this time, we are seeing the fruits of good seeds sown in years gone by. Some are teachers, some are pastors, and still others are preparing for missionary service. We've watched children grow into adulthood; some of which we fretted about, prayed about, and rebuked because they didn't seem to be paying attention. But now, they are ministering for the Lord, raising their own children to know the Lord, and so we thank the Lord. Some made wrong choices along the way, were outright rebellious, and made shipwreck. But by the grace of God, the sun can shine another day for those who determine to live their lives for the Lord.

Two things have become clear to us: (1) It is important to sow good seed. There is no substitute for preaching the gospel of the grace of God. Bible preaching is more important than social events. Teaching the word and giving personal encouragements and warnings become the strongest influences for good in the lives of young people who grow up in moderate or non-Christian homes. (2) A person who has been saved, but later makes wrong choices, or adopts false doctrine, can still be restored to a fruitful life and ministry. "And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6.9).

Despite pandemic-related restrictions, nearly all ministry efforts are being maintained, except for our street ministry along the waterfront. We are in contact with our local government to know when health restrictions will allow us to do more. The Philippine Islands are seeing 8,000 new COVID cases per day. Even though the pandemic has been slow to arrive at our remote island, the number of cases is on the rise; and our friends and church mates have been affected. Thank you for your prayers, support, concern, and communication. We continue by the grace of God.

Yours for souls,

Mark Varney and family



EOTEM

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