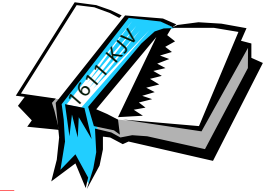




Tess, Mark, John, & Daniel

The Varney Family to the Philippines

Holding fast the
Faithful Word



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Dear Friends,

June 30, 2024

Greetings from Palawan, Philippines. If you've never taken time to locate Palawan island on a map, you might not know that it rests in the western coastal waters of the Philippines, which have been lately repeatedly trespassed by Chinese military ships. Filipino fishermen continue to be the targets of bullying, water cannons, and bodily injuries by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CCCP).

South China Sea: China and Philippines claims



*Extent based on China's "Nine-dash line" Source: CSIS AFP

Threats of arrest are now being announced against Filipinos fishing in their own native waters. The Philippine government has said that if these sorts of actions result in the death of a Filipino citizen, that the Republic of the Philippines may take it as an act of war. The USA has heavily increased its military presence here on and around Palawan, and would presumably come to the aid of the Philippines should hostilities grow worse.

These aggressive acts seem small compared to military actions in other hot spots of the world; but the unrest and inexplicable hatred seem to be common denominators. Let us pray to the Lord, that His will might be done; and let us do what we can do in the will of God! Jesus said: "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world" (John 9:5); and so also are we to "shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2.15).

We continue to work with a dozen able, teaching men; providing Bibles, teaching material, books, regular fellowship and encouragement. We count each of these as true Bible teachers, and the gospel hope of this island. Please pray for these men to grow in grace, courage, and truth.

Tess and I were happy to give our blessing and prayers for our son John, and new daughter-in-law Hannah, at their marriage on May 7th. John and Hannah have made their home in the same village as our own, and are serving faithfully in the church. We were also delighted to have a Varney representative from Ohio, to attend the wedding -- my brother Dave.

We are training our teenagers at church to be more familiar with all gospel-related doctrines, and to be able to give a clear witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. Please pray for these young people to be staunch and steady ministers of the gospel. As we continue in these labors, we are mindful and grateful for your faithful support and prayers on our behalf. Thank you for your trust!

Sincerely,
Mark Varney and Family



EOTEM

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