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## The Varney Family to the Philippines

Holding fast the **Faithful Word** 



June 01, 2025 Dear Friends,

"Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward" (Job 5:7 ~ KJV). Since our last letter, our family has had our fair portion of trouble. In twenty-two years of mission work, we have never had trouble such as this. It began with our son John having a manic episode; by now, we have learned many things about dealing with this illness. Early medical intervention and hospital confinement helped greatly. It was not the worst episode we had lived through; so we are thankful for that.

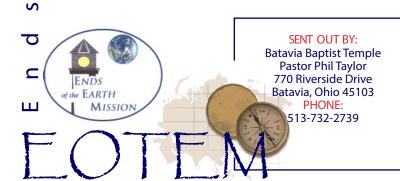
John was hospitalized for eleven very difficult days, but more trouble was coming. After he was  $\leq$ released from the Doctor's care, the Devil dealt us a cruel and dangerous blow that threatened to pull both family and church apart at the seams; he laid a snare when we were most vulnerable. For several dark days, there seemed to be no hope nor help in sight. As a family, we struggled, and we prayed, while the situation grew worse.

In the end, we were so very thankful for our church family, as they gathered together to discuss what was pulling us apart, to exchange perspectives, to forgive one another, to show charity, and to pray for one another. Truly, believers have the capacity to show genuine charity and to B forgive "even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you". We thank the Lord for giving wisdom to our church members to be able to recognize a snare of the Devil ("we are not ignorant of his ш devices"), and to handle the matter wisely. The Lord be praised!

We are reminded that we are not alone in our troubles. The apostle Paul wrote: "For we would a) not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:" (2 Cor. 1:8). Also, our troubles come with a double benefit: (1) "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" (2 Cor. 1:4), and (2) "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Cor. 4:17).

0 By God's grace and your prayers and support, we press on. We love you all!

> Sincerely, Mark Varney and Family



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