

Reaching the Filipinos for Christ

the Catalans

METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES



January-February 2021

Dear Prayer Partners,

We hope you are all well upon receiving our letter. We are excited to report some updates that have taken place for the past two months. We are very grateful for your prayers for us.

MINISTRY

I have had several opportunities to preach via video recorded messages for church services for my father's church in Makati, Philippines. It is a blessing to be able to preach the Gospel in Tagalog once again. Since the internet connection is not really good, I have to video record my message for them to watch and just video call before and during the sermon. They alternate between live and video messages for services due to changing quarantine restrictions.

Kristin is about to begin taking online Language School for Tagalog. She was introduced to a specific group by a fellow missionary wife to the Philippines who provides online Tagalog tutoring. She will be doing this during the evenings because her teacher is in the Philippines. Kristin already understands some Tagalog but had a hard time talking Tagalog. This would be part of our preparation to live in the Philippines and also taking advantage of our time here while we are waiting to go to Philippines.

TRAVEL UPDATE

We had booked our Flights to the Philippines for April 22, since the country had opened up to former Filipinos on the first week of February. After one week our flight was then cancelled by Delta Airlines, so we booked again for April 23, and then it was recently completely cancelled once again by the Airlines after one week of rebooking it. After these occurrences, we have been praying and seeking when we should book next, since we have been very eager to go to the Philippines. Right before our flight was cancelled for the second time, We got in touch with a couple of missionary families who already have established ministries in Manila, Philippines. Both families recommended to us to delay our arrival to the Philippines due to very strict restrictions even after 14-21 days of quarantine. They said that what we see in the Media news and Philippine Immigration updates are not conformed to the updates. Law enforcement and policemen that enforce the quarantines are not fully informed and it causes a lot of confusion and It would be very difficult to start fresh there with all the restrictions. I had even spoken with my father in the Philippines, and he had expressed the same thing. With the flight cancellations and advice/council from missionaries in the Philippines and my father, we feel that God is leading us right now to not yet go to the Philippines.

With lots of prayers and peace in our hearts, we decided to delay our arrival to Philippines to the end of summer or fall. We are really praying by then the situation in the Philippines will be a little better (hopefully no more 14-21 day quarantine).

DUAL CITIZENSHIP UPDATES

One exciting news we have is we were able to set an appointment for me (John Mark) and our kids' dual citizenship oath-taking in the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC on March 15. We have been trying to get a schedule since the month of November 2020, but because of hundreds of former Filipinos wanting to be dual citizens and a limited appointments per month, it has been a struggle to get an appointment. Please pray that everything will go smoothly and that I will be able to get my dual citizenship in the Philippines. This would be a great blessing once we **ALL** get this. We would **not need** to exit the Philippines every year once we acquire dual citizenship.

Please continue to pray for Kristin's Report of Birth Process. It has been difficult acquiring all the needed documents. We finally just received the last additional document they had requested back in January. We will mail these documents to the Philippines Embassy in Los Angeles, California, and hopefully within two weeks we should be finished with that process. Please pray no more delays in this process! Once we receive her Report of Birth Document, she can apply for dual citizenship like me and our kids did in Philippine Embassy Washington, DC. Every next step taken is encouraging!

Prayer Requests:

1. That Kristin's dual citizenship process will be entirely completed before we leave.
2. John Mark's appointment in DC for dual citizenship for him and the kids.
3. Kristin's language study.
4. For Jaelyn, or eldest's homeschooling. (She is working on 1st grade through the summer.)
5. More opportunities to minister while we are still here in US.

Thank you so much for your continued prayer and support for us. We also always keep you in our prayers. May God richly bless you!

In His Service,
The Catalan family

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