

# PHILIPPINES

## THE STEDMAN FAMILY

Greetings Pastors, Churches, Friends and Family

January 2019

We Hope December was a blessing and you were able to enter the New Year with some expectations, goals and opportunities in sight to serve the Lord! We ourselves continue to sow the word in the ministries God has allowed us to have and look for other places and ways to preach the gospel. The new Filipino Air Force base is coming along and we continue to not only pray but also let them know that we are here to minister. Brother Sutek has submitted a letter of introduction and intent stating what we have to offer and his effort has got the ball rolling. Two Representatives from the base visited the Church property to check us out. Praise the Lord! Please keep this opportunity in prayer.

Thanksgiving in December? No, we did not skip the celebration in November, we had a great time of fellowship and food at the Suteks, but we also had the Churches Thanksgiving which was Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. Then we had 4 graduates from the Bible Institute on Dec 12<sup>th</sup>. On Dec 20<sup>th</sup> Jon and I went to a family camp where I was invited to preach outside of Manila. Pastor Julius Punsalan graduated from PBI of the Philippines in the 1990s. It was a good meeting and the Lord blessed. The scripture out of Rev. 3:2 kept coming to mind, "Be watchful and strengthen the things which remain." Everyone was encouraged to watch and to pray and to strengthen each other to continue for the Lord!



Jon and I flew home Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> and were thankful to be home with Anna and Emily for Christmas. We had a good day and rejoiced to be with each other although in the back of our minds our thoughts will turn to those back in the States. Even then we can rejoice on past family gatherings and praise God for all that He has done for us.

Dec 29<sup>th</sup> I came down with Dengue fever. It hit me without warning, starting with severe aching in my joints, fever of 102, chills, shakes, and nausea. Anna and the kids ministered to me and saw me through what we thought was the worst of it. After 3 days the fever broke and subsided and it looked like I was on the mend. Then I started having a deep cough and was having trouble breathing. I figured it was time to see a Doctor. At the Hospital I was diagnosed with pneumonia and I ended up spending 6 days in the hospital. Anna stayed there with me as my watcher, yes that is the designation and they have a sign stating only one watcher so that the whole family won't stay. On the 5<sup>th</sup> day we were told that they had run out of one of my medicines so Anna had to get a taxi and go to the pharmacy and pick it up. That was something different for us. I lost my voice for about 3 weeks and it has been a slow process in recovering.

Thank you to those that sent Bibles for the H.S ministry. They are being shipped so please pray that they arrive safe and asap. Please continue to pray for Julieta and Bernice to come to church. We appreciate the prayer!

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Sincerely, The Stedmans

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