

# PHILIPPINES

## THE STEDMAN FAMILY

Greetings Pastors, Churches, Friends and Family

Aug-Oct 2020

Thank you all once again, for your prayers and financial support. Alvin and Mae's wedding was beautiful and a testimony of a young couple's desire to start right with the Lord at the beginning of their relationship. It was a blessing that Jon was Alvin's best man and Emily was a bridesmaid. It is encouraging to see your children build friendships and memories on the mission field that will be with them for a lifetime.

Thank you for praying concerning our immigration process, after weeks of prayer and running around getting paperwork, we met with the Immigration officer in charge of the Missionary Visa dept. She explained that all of our paperwork was in order but that processing it now would not be profitable and that it would not change our ability to return to the Philippines any more than the visa we currently have. So we will save this to process at a later date.

Proverbs 27b, "For thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" has been something you can be certain of. I am thankful for the Lord encouraging us that we still have work to do in the Philippines, Acts 16:10b, "Assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them." While going through the process of securing our travel papers one last obstacle was put in our path and we would have to go to a different Police station. We started the process early in the morning and now it was afternoon and the sixth government office we had visited. The humidity, heat, and the smells of the city were taking their toll. Then the Lord brought to my memory Colonel Damplan, whom I had met last year when getting approval to have devotions at Cogon Market Police Station. He happened to be my landlord's best friend. I asked them if the Colonel was in, they asked if I knew him and I told them how I knew him. As one officer went to talk to the Colonel the other officer started talking with us and asked why we were in the Philippines. I started witnessing to him and was able to show him some things from the Bible. He then made the statement, "You must return to the Philippines whether a pandemic or a war to preach to my people!" The Colonel then met with us and took care of the last paper!



We were now clear for our departure so it seemed. Through the course of events, Anna and Jon were on one airline from Manila to LA, and Emily and I were on another. Anna and Jon went to the international terminal while Emily and I were taken to a motel as our plane didn't leave until the next day. They arrived safely in LA and some friends of the ministry picked them up. Emily and I were stopped at check-in because we had to transit through Korea and the Korean Government required the PCR swab test at a hospital or clinic approved by the Korean government. This was not available in our city and the US Embassy in Korea website said that only a temp check and questions would be asked. I am thankful for the Lord's people being a help in these times. The Bible Believers Baptist Church in Paranaque Pastor Galicto and Brother Nonoy were a blessing in so many ways in helping Emily and I find a good place to stay and transport us around the city. We had to stay 2 and a half days in Manila waiting for the results, keeping ourselves isolated and ordering food to be delivered. During that time of waiting, different fears pop up in the mind, I am glad for the support of family, friends, and the Lord in a time like that. I am thankful for the Davidsons taking care of Anna and Jon in L.A, and Emily and I when we finally arrived. God's people are the best.

Sincerely, The Stedman Family

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