

PHILIPPINES

THE STEDMAN FAMILY

Greetings Pastors, Churches, Friends and Family

Nov-Dec 2020

I cannot overstate how much we are thankful for the Lord's mercy and his people for sustaining us on our journey. If I was to succumb to the media and the misinformation put out I would just curl up paralyzed in fear and not attempt anything for the Lord and the ministry. Praise the Lord for the scripture and the hope we have. **Acts 15:3** *And being brought on their way by the church* and **Romans 12:13** *Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.*

When we left California we had to have a place to stay. We thought it would be good to self-isolate and lay low. Riverview BC gave us a place to stay and was such a huge blessing in many ways. They allowed us to be part of their Missions Emphasis month. I was given the opportunity to preach and present our ministry in their drive-in service, give a testimony at the RU recovery program, and on the radio!

Family and navigating Covid restrictions: We went to see my mom at her senior apartment but could not go inside, but she could come outside to visit with us. That's fine in September but seems counterproductive in the cold of December in the Pacific Northwest, logic, reason, and common sense seem to be absent these days. My mother's sister passed suddenly in July 2020. Due to Covid, they could not have a memorial service until September. My cousins asked me, while we were still in the Philippines, to video a eulogy for the graveside service. I told them I would do so but hopefully, I could be there in person. I am thankful that I was able to make it with the Lord's travel mercies. I was able to minister to my saved family and preach the Gospel to the lost ones.

Meetings: I was thankful to be asked by Pastor Bosley to preach at the Master's Ranch West in Eastern Washington. I was saved at Touchet Church in 1990 under his ministry. The Master's Ranch is for troubled young teen boys and for some it is the last hope for their parents. Before I arrived to be with them for 3 days they found out that the operation out west was going to have to shut down and they would have to go back to the Missouri Ranch at the end of the month. It was a situation that was another hit in the gut for them in this year 2020. I preached 4 times what the Lord gave me and was able to minister to the young men and staff. One night the parents of one young man were visiting. I preached on a verse in **Job 3:23**, *Why is light given* and **Psalms 97:11**, *Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.* God gives us light in the dark times. These Parents thanked me for doing what I do. I deflected to the staff and was thankful to be able to have a small part in ministering to all. Please keep this ministry in prayer.

We were able to go visit three Churches in Oregon. I was told by a friend that Oregon was shut down and his brother told him he could not visit. We trusted the Lord and went forward and were able to minister and be ministered to. Anna and I were able to go out on the street with Pastor Hardy, Pastor Crew, and a brother from the church. It was cold for Salem, Oregon and I thought of the first part of the verse in **Proverbs 25:13**, *As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger.* We need to continue to be faithful and pray for one another.

Thankful: I am thankful for all the churches and individuals who gave above and beyond to help us continue as ambassadors for Christ. Many thanks to some that gave towards our eyeglasses/eye exam costs. We had not had eye exams for 5 years and our glasses were in bad shape and we have now had our eye exams and picked up our much needed new glasses!

Prayer: We have meetings scheduled in March and April, please pray for us as we travel and that we would be a blessing to the people. Please continue to pray for Emily and Jon as they get settled in Idaho. Salvation for Julito and Nice, our friends in Mindanao. And pray that the door to get back to the Philippines would open wide.

With Sincere Gratitude, The Stedman Family



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