

Reaching the Filipinos for Christ the Catalans

METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES



September-October 2021

Dear Prayer Partners,

Greetings from the Philippines! We hope that you are all doing well.

For the past two months a lot of things have happened, and we are amazed how God enabled us to accomplish everything, even the little details. We cleared out our apartment in North Carolina and moved here to Metro Manila, Philippines, on September 28, 2021. Originally, we were supposed to fly on September 21, but due to sickness we rebooked our tickets.

We arrived here in the Philippines October 1, and everything went smoothly on our flight. We did our two weeks quarantine (10 days hotel and 4 days in our new apartment). We praise the Lord that we turned out negative for our COVID test and after that we started right away the process of building our roots in the Philippines to settle down.

One of the immediate culture shocks that we felt right away is how slow life is here compared to the USA, like getting internet service and opening a bank account. It took a while but thankfully we were able to accomplish those things. We were able to adjust right away to the life here in the Philippines, like getting our basic needs, setting our kids' homeschooling, purchasing a vehicle, and learning the driving culture here which is very different.

Another blessing is, the way God timed our arrival here. Since we finished our quarantine, the Philippine government started to ease the quarantine restriction and opening up more businesses in the city where we live, and allowing minors to go outside (since kids have not been allowed to go out since March 2020). Now it is starting to look like things are going back to normal.

When we arrived here in the Philippines, the Immigration just gave our kids one year visas, but Kristin and I have no problems. We ask about it, and we learned that we were given wrong information at the Philippine Embassy in Washington, DC. They required our kids to have Philippine passports for them to stay here with no visa restrictions like me and Kristin. Thankfully we were able to acquire all the necessary papers for our kids for us to be able to get their Philippine passports. Please pray that everything goes smoothly as we work on getting their passports here in the Philippines.

We are thankful and excited to finally be here in the Philippines to do what God has called us to do. We will be working and shadowing with my father, Pastor at Hope of Glory Bible Baptist Church, in Makati City. We will be learning from him about the ministry here in the Philippines. At the same time, we will be doing some survey trips to know the location where we can start a church. Please continue to pray for guidance and wisdom as we serve the Lord here. Please pray specifically for me that God will use me mightily as I will have my first opportunity to preach on Nov. 14.

Please continue to Pray for Kristin's language study, as she is already in her Intermediate Level and can completely understand Tagalog already and can speak some sentences. She will continue studying the Tagalog language for the next eight months to be able to communicate better.

We are very grateful to everyone that prayed and gave for our quarantine expenses. Thank you so much for your continual support for us through prayers and financial support. We also want to greet everyone in an Advanced Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! We love you all and we always keep you in our prayers!

May God richly bless you all!
John Mark and Kristin Catalan

Prayer Requests:

1. Guidance in the ministry and opportunities to share the Gospel.
2. Good health and protection for all of us.
3. Getting our kids' Philippine passports.

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