

# the GOODPASTER FAMILY



Greetings in Christ,

## Thankful for FBMI

For the last 14 years, we have partnered with our mission board, FBMI, to answer God's call for us to serve as missionaries to the Philippines. At the time we joined the mission board, we were just kids, fresh out of college and newly married, full of zeal, but in need of wisdom for the task ahead. We are very thankful for all that the past and present staff of FBMI have done over the years to help us. They had a part in equipping us to raise support, get to the field, and stay on the field. They also were a lifeline to us when we faced the major crisis of our son's brain cancer and, more recently, as I dealt with my own personal health crisis. They have done everything they were capable of doing to help us, and we are so thankful.

## Health Updates

Due to our most recent health crisis, we have been on a medical furlough in the USA since March of this year. In our time here, Audrey has fully recovered and regained her strength back from her second lengthy bout with dengue fever, which she had back in January and February. I have also seen my health return to normal with some rest and the help of good doctors and therapists. Best of all, we are so happy to report that Jonathan's most recent scans and follow-up appointments at Cincinnati Children's Hospital revealed that he is still cancer-free. This good news was such a relief to us since he had missed all of his follow-up appointments and scans in 2020 due to the extreme travel restrictions in the Philippines. He is now five years post-diagnosis and considered a long-term survivor! Overall, he is healthy, but he is still in need of weekly speech and occupational therapy. We praise God for how He has lovingly cared for and watched over our family these past few months.

## Philippines Lockdowns

It was very difficult for us to leave the Philippines this last time, knowing full well that the possibility for our return there is slim to none due to the extreme COVID lockdowns there. This is the situation there since March of 2020 to present. I know, and have personally communicated with, 11 other missionaries to the Philippines. One miraculously made it back in January, and the other 10 are Stateside at present. Three of those are in the process of resigning, and the 7 others are holding out, hoping to return; one of them has been attempting to return for over a year now, all to no avail. We pray the situation there changes soon and that the Philippines will open up to foreigners again.

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1800 Augusta Drive  
Jeffersonville IN 47130

**Sending Church:**  
Faith Baptist Church  
6355 Manchester Rd  
Franklin, OH 45005  
937.247.6119



**Serving With:**  
FBMI  
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Missionary # 143

## **Resigning from FBMI**

What does this all mean for our family and ministry in the meantime? Well, it's certainly not a circumstance we wanted to find ourselves in, but here we are. Even though we aren't yet privileged to see the entire outcome God has for us, we are trusting Him and willing to follow His plans for us, even though they may be different than ours. His thoughts and ways are so much higher than ours. We are resigning as missionaries with FBMI, since we will not be returning to the Philippines. This decision has been bathed in much prayer, tears, and counsel. We know it to be God's will for us at this time, even if we may not yet entirely understand why. We are thankful for the godly counsel and support of our home pastor, Brother Matt Hinkle, in making this decision.

Please continue to pray for our family during this time of transition. Pray that God will clearly direct our path. There is another missionary endeavor that has been presented to us, and we will let you know more about that as God directs. FBMI will continue to process our support through September. At that time, Lord willing, we will have clarity for future ministry plans. Would you prayerfully consider supporting us through this transition time? We will continue to update you on the next phase of our ministry. If any of you reading this have further questions, please call me at (812) 946-6130.

## **Ministry in the Philippines Remains Healthy**

Some have asked us how the ministries in the Philippines are doing. By God's grace, they are doing well. The main church plant, Harvest Baptist Church, has already voted in our Filipino assistant pastor, Pastor Mel Veloso, as their lead pastor. The church family there is spiritually and financially stable even in our absence. Pastor Mel will send next month's prayer letter to report on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Harvest Baptist in July. We are hoping to help the two other church plants there to purchase property in the near future. I enjoy biweekly Zoom chats with our three Filipino pastors.

## **Audrey's Book Update**

Please be in prayer for God to use Audrey's book, *Shekinah Glory from Darkest Story*, about Jonathan's cancer battle. It is nearly finished, and we are looking to publish it soon. We hope to have more information on that available in September.

We have been blessed to catch up with family and friends in recent days, but we certainly miss our life, home, and church family in the Philippines; they have been our "family" there for the last decade. Thank you so very much for your faithful support; it means more to us than our words can express. We love you all so much.

In Christ,

Nathan Goodpaster