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GIVING HOPE TO THE HOPELESS
IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
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Waiting on God's Perfect Timing

I am currently doing a word study through the Bible in my personal devotions on the word *wait*. Learning to wait is a constant lesson all throughout our lives as Christians. Throughout the Bible there are many stories of His children waiting for His promises. We wait for God's perfect timing in every detail of our lives as we seek Him. At times we fail to wait because we become impatient and want things now. In a world of instant gratification we think our requests to God should be answered right away. God does say, "Ask, and it shall be given unto you..." But, sometimes He answers, "Yes, but wait." I was listening to a sermon on YouTube and the preacher asked this question: "Is what you are waiting for worth the wait?" I pondered that question. I am learning to trust the Lord to make every circumstance fall into place and to bring it to pass in His perfect timing.

I am waiting for the day I can communicate in Tagalog. I am working, waiting and longing for the day that Tagalog will make sense to me. I am praising the Lord for providing me an online tutor. I Skype him four days a week for thirty-minutes each session. He is an excellent teacher. He is a Filipino missionary pastor and has been teaching English for years. I praise the Lord for the small accomplishments. I can read the language slowly. I can form simple sentences, but it takes me a couple minutes to form it. I am thankful for all the people helping practice; they are so patient with me. I am memorizing new words and trying my best to use them as much as possible. Please pray that I will continue to understand, retain, and recall Tagalog. Pray that my confidence to speak and use the language will increase. My desire to teach the children in their own language continues to grow. It will be worth the wait when I can share the Gospel to a child in their own language.

I am waiting for my missionary visa approval. I am still currently waiting on my visa. I am praising the Lord for helping me find a Christian lawyer whose office specializes in getting missionaries approved for various visas. The visa I am applying for is one they apply for often. The lawyer is always great at explaining what is needed. The holdup right now is waiting on the necessary documents that are required to be sent in with my application. Several documents from Heavenly Bible Baptist Church are in the process of being updated. I am waiting on all my documents from the States, especially my birth certificate. All my documents from the US must come with an Apostille to verify they are legitimate. Working with any government whether it be the Philippines or the US is always a long process. Please pray that all of these things will be done in God's perfect timing. If needed, I will apply for another 6-month extension on my current tourist visa while waiting for my missionary visa to be processed. The good news is that the missionary visa is good for three years. It will be worth the wait to be able to live here in the Philippines for three extra years!

While I am waiting, I am serving where I can and where God opens a door. I continue to supervise the Sunday School program and attend children's outreaches. I have been able to teach a few times with a translator and once without (though several could not understand because it was mostly in English). God has been so good at teaching and molding me during the waiting time. He is showing me who I really am. He is showing me what needs to change in my life to become a more effective servant to further the Gospel. He is cutting and scrapping out the parts of the clay that do not show His Son. I pray every day, though it hurts, that He will continue to make me more like Christ and less like me. Please pray that God will continue to give me understanding, wisdom, and discernment as I wait on Him. Serving Christ while I wait will be worth it all when I see Him face to face. I pray that I will hear my Lord say, "Well done, good and faithful servant, welcome home my child."

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support! I appreciate you all very much.

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Thank you for your prayers and support!

"Looking for that blessed hope..." Titus 2:13