

PHILIPPINES

May 2020

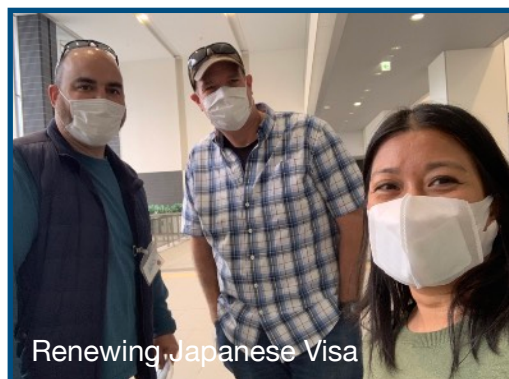
“If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that...” - James 4:15

For those who have known me for more than a couple of days, when I say the word Russia, it invariably bring a smile to your face. The reason is because for YEARS if you asked me what God had planned for my life it was to be a full time missionary in the former Soviet Union. I even had a specific destination picked out on the far eastern edge of Siberia. I was going to serve in the city of Петропáвловск-Камча́тский (*Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky*). I would jokingly say that if you can pronounce it you may be called.

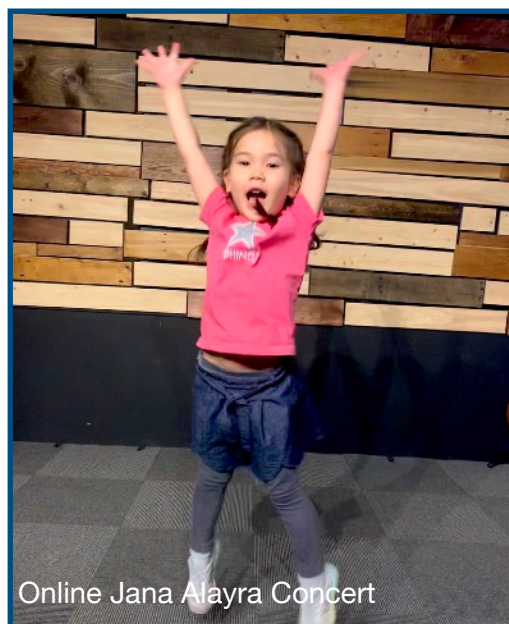
Imagine my surprise, when it finally came time for me to be sent out as a missionary in 2008, to end up of all places in the Philippines. From the tundra to the tropics, I am not sure I could have been any further off! The take away from my experience, if you want to know what God has called you to do don't ask me, apparently I have no idea (haha!).

Fast forward 12 years and we once again were preparing to be sent out to the Philippines. When people asked me what we were going to be doing I had a patented answer. I could tell you exactly what we would be doing for the next few months. We would begin with a two week short term outreach in the Philippines with Jana Alayra. We would then serve for 3 months in Japan coming along side Calvary Chapel Iwakuni. Finally we would return to the Philippines to help out with a short term team from Calvary Chapel Dickinson. After that things were more uncertain as we would step out to start church planting in Bacolod.

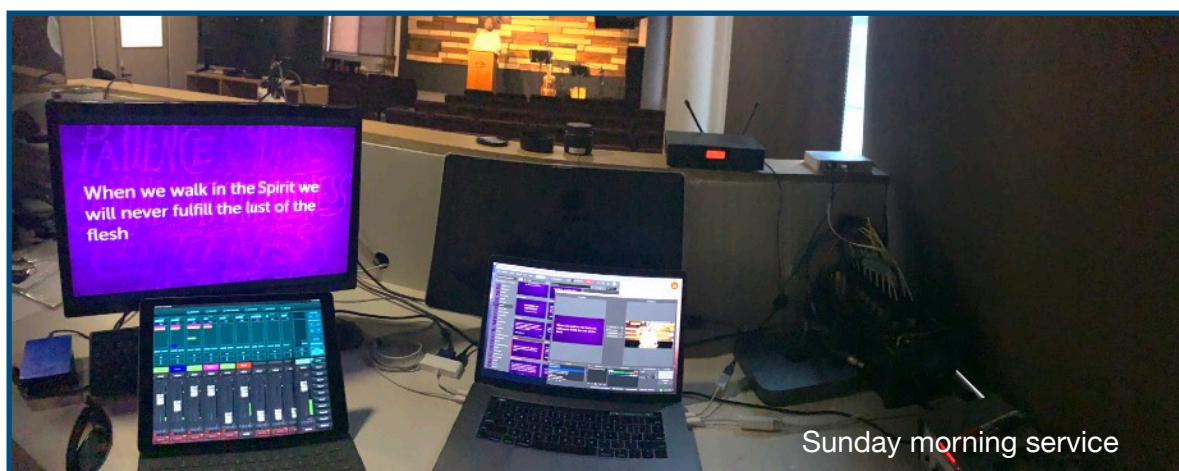
It has been well said that history repeats itself. It turned out my few months of 'certainty' got swallowed up in a worldwide pandemic that reset all the rules. James hit the nail on the head when he said we are NOT to say we will do this or that. Instead we to always be flexible, open, and ready because it is inevitably ONLY if the Lord will we will do anything!



Renewing Japanese Visa



Online Jana Alayra Concert



Sunday morning service



The Philippines is currently under an enhanced community quarantine. It was initially set to expire on April 12 and we would have been able to return to Bacolod on our original tickets on April 16. But the quarantine was extended to April 30 so we had to rebook our tickets to May 10 (*after 7 hours on the phone*). Then a few week before our new departure date the Philippines extended the quarantine again until May 15. With our tickets once again canceled it left us in limbo on a return date. We are currently waiting to see if mid May actually brings about the reopening of international travel into the Philippines. In the mean time we were able to extend our visas here in Japan until August 1 (*Lord willing we will not have to wait that long to return*).

Although we have wound down most of the projects that we were working on for the past few months (*kitchen remodel / lighting and ceiling replacement in the sanctuary*), Pastor Glenn has been keeping us busy at the church. I have been working on rebuilding the church website, installing and operating their video and sound system, as well as continuing to teach the midweek Bible studies from the Book of Daniel (*live-streamed*). I have also had the

opportunity to teach several special seminars on the Origins of the Bible and the Original Languages of the Bible.



One question Jen and I have been prayerfully considering is once we do arrive in Bacolod how we can begin church planting if social distancing and bans on large group gatherings continue for the foreseeable future (*a very real possibility*). The solution would seem to be in reaching out through online teachings and social media. An unexpected blessing of working on all the live streaming for the church has been learning the ins and outs of online video production. We were able to get a hold of equipment here that we will bring with us to begin recording online teachings (*camera / sound board / microphone / video mixer*). Lord willing we will soon start ministering using this new tool to love and build up the believers in Bacolod!



In the mean time Jen and Hallel have been busy starting up her home schooling. We were able to get ahold of curriculum from Our Fathers World and Hallel has begun her first year in Kindergarten. She is **LOVING** learning her alphabet, numbers, and geography! Turns out she is great student (*she takes after her momma*). She also has a new found love of Uno. Her favorite card is the draw four (*that she gets from her daddy*)!

Love,
David, Jen, and Hallel