

2018 Philippines Mission Trip

Dear Loved One in Christ,

Introduction

We (Bryan Harris, Matthew Henderson, Jake Harris, and Luke Henderson) are writing to you to let you know about a recent opportunity we have been given to travel with Ken Wilkey, a longtime Philippine missionary, this summer. We are to accompany him for two weeks in the Philippines this August. Our trip is one which is to be filled with work and fellowship with the people whose names we have heard so many times, but most of whom we have never been blessed to see with our own eyes. Lord willing, we will begin teaching on the day our plane lands. There are plans for Luke and Jake to help work in youth efforts, including a large gathering that will happen while we are there. Bryan and Matthew will be teaching seminar classes for church leaders. One seminar in particular will be focused on teaching that is designed to help counteract some issues with a Missionary Society-type organization developing in one province there, which historically caused division in the U.S., and which has also been an issue in Mexico. We also have plans with helping in outreach efforts that the workers there have planned for us.

Background

For several years, Ken Wilkey has led a mens' Bible class on Thursday nights, open to any who would like to attend. This study begins at 9pm, and often does not end until after midnight. Both Luke and Jake have been a faithful part of this study with us for the past few years. As we have all grown closer to one another, and grown in our desire to be faithful and active stewards of God's Word, we have also found an ever-increasing desire to give more and more of our lives up to live in service to Him. Luke and Jake have already shown their eagerness to serve wherever they are, and have both most recently presented devotional messages to over 400 people at Camp Bandina. Jake plans to be an integral part in the continued development of the college group at Brazos Valley over the next few years while continuing to serve our local congregation. Luke is attending Lubbock Christian in the fall to pursue a degree in Biblical studies – his desire is to be a full-time missionary. Brother Wilkey presented us with this opportunity to go and work with him, to benefit the people there where we could, to continue our own spiritual growth, and perhaps to find a way to serve in a new capacity. Bryan and I have been assured this is a worthy effort, and the timing is especially advantageous to further ground Luke and Jake as they begin a new stage in life – one which we foresee will be spent in faithful service to our Lord and Savior.

The Need

We are estimating the cost of the trip to be \$7000 for the four of us (\$1750 each). The majority of the cost is primarily associated with air travel, as we will be eating and staying all but a few nights with brethren in the Philippines. While this is not an insignificant amount of money, the cost of travel has actually decreased since the first century. If estimates using Stanford University's data are

correct, two weeks' worth of the ship-travel only portion for Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey would have been between \$2440 to \$3129 per person.

Both Bryan and I labor without pay in the teaching and preaching at Brazos Valley, where we serve as deacons. Having been able to study with Ken for many years on Thursday nights, we are thankful to God for the treasure we have been given, and pray we will be faithful in passing on what we have been taught to faithful Christians until death. Being asked to accompany Ken in his work, and share in this ministry is a great highlight of our Christian lives which we do not take lightly. What more as fathers could we desire than to have Luke and Jake start their adult lives as they leave the nest of home than to spend this time as young men in ministry with Ken in a foreign field. This is a trip to share in fellowship and the Word with our brethren in the Philippines, to build up and edify, not a vacation to sight-see the country and spend on our own pleasures.

We know that some brethren who have had just such an opportunity to serve in this way, at this same time of life, were touched with an abiding mark of gratitude that remains with them to this day. Our desire is for Luke and Jake to have this opportunity to love Christians on the other side of the globe, and to set their feet on a path of a lifetime of giving up the things of this world to serve Christ wherever they might be in the coming years. For many years they have heard their fathers talk-the-talk, and now we are eager to show them in another way, side-by-side, just how to be eager to walk-the-walk in following Christ.

Conclusion

Seeing both the need and the opportunity there, along with the immense spiritual value for our sons, we are resolved to say yes and go. And now, we lay aside our fears and ask for your help in sending us to be part of this work. It is one thing to go, and quite another to be sent by those who believe in and are praying for you – our prayer is that we will find brothers and sisters who are eager to share the financial burden with us, and speed us on our way. Regardless of your ability to help financially, we especially covet your prayers that the Lord will use us to His glory now and always.

If you would like to help in this effort, you can write a check to the Brazos Valley church of Christ, or you can send it care of Ken Wilkey at the address below. Please note what it is for in either case:

Ken Wilkey
1107 Neal Pickett
College Station, TX 77845

Updates will be made before and throughout the trip as opportunity allows at:

oneservant2go.com

You can also see Matt or Bryan if you would prefer. We love you dearly. Thank you.

With Most Tender Affection in Christ,

Matthew, Bryan, Luke, and Jake