



Please pray for

- The health of both sets of our parents
- Miriam, as she continues teaching asynchronously for Faith Academy
- Faith Academy staffing needs, including a Communications Coordinator for Todd's Advancement Dept.
- The Philippines to lift restrictions so Faith Academy students and staff can return to face-to-face education
- Katrina, graduating in May from Cairn University with a masters in education and certification in TESOL and planning her July wedding
- Joshua, continuing his graduate program at Cairn University
- Heidi, living with Miriam's parents and working at Kohl's
- Daniel, living in Surfside Beach, Texas, and working at Olin Corp.
- Kirsten, Elliott and Tessa, living in Merrimac, MA and teaching in Lynn, MA

Truly Joyful

This past year I received a bottle of *Truly Joyful* perfume for my birthday. It's sitting on my dresser, and it's a daily visual reminder for me to check my heart attitude before I leave my room in the morning. Does my life reflect the joy of the Lord? Psalm 16:11 reminds us, "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is *fullness of joy*; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." One key to being truly joyful is spending time in God's presence. Joy is also a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). And just like in nature fruit takes time to mature, our spiritual growth is a process. We grow in our love for God through knowing and obeying Him, regardless of our circumstances. Being truly joyful means I will *count it all joy* when I face various trials (James 1:2). But regardless of the challenges I face, I can rely on the joy of the Lord to be my strength (Nehemiah 8:10)!

We have been living with Miriam's parents since we arrived in the United States in June 2020. Little did they know that they would be extending hospitality for over a year! We're so thankful for their provision of a place to call home and have been blessed to have this time with them.

In late December both of Miriam's parents had COVID. Miriam's mom was hospitalized for six days with blood clots in her lungs, while Miriam's dad was at a different hospital for ten days and then moved to a skilled nursing facility for thirty days. While it was our plan to return to the Philippines in January, the Lord used President Duterte's travel ban to orchestrate our being here in the States to take care of Mr. and Mrs. Reader as they recover and regain their strength.

The Philippines is currently under a strict lockdown and closed to expats. Please join us in praying for the country to re-open soon. In the meantime, Miriam is still teaching middle school Bible remotely, and Todd is working to promote Faith Academy around the world, developing relationships with alumni, former staff, and ministry partners. Your continued prayers for strength to finish the school year well would be appreciated. Preparing for asynchronous classes and the 12-hour time difference can be exhausting. Lord willing, our new plan is to return to the Philippines in early August for the 2021-22 school year.

The extensive restrictions in the Philippines over the past year have

greatly impacted Hillcrest Christian Church and Lyncrest Christian Academy (LCA), where Miriam taught part time the last five years. Church attendance is presently limited to 10% capacity. LCA is providing online education but to less than half of last year's enrollment. Students have not been allowed to leave their homes in over a year. Please pray for the school's dedicated teachers, students, and families as they face many challenges.

Joshua and Katrina were able to spend spring break and Easter with us. Our protracted stay in the States has come with so many blessings as we have had opportunities to spend extra time with our children, extended family, and friends. We've also been able to attend our commending assembly, Westlake Bible Fellowship. And for the first time in eight years, we're experiencing an Ohio spring. We're really enjoying walking in our neighborhood and seeing the beautiful flowers and budding trees. While the beginning of 2021 has taken on a different look from what we anticipated, we can join with the psalmist and say, "you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy" (Psalm 63:7)! Our hearts are truly joyful!!

Please say hello!

We can be reached in a variety of ways:

US Mailing Address

2254 Walter Rd.
Westlake, OH 44145

Email

tmeichenauer@gmail.com

MagicJack

(216) 772-7148*

* local Cleveland number that rings on Todd's cellphone anywhere in the world



Happy birthday, Todd!



Miriam & Todd



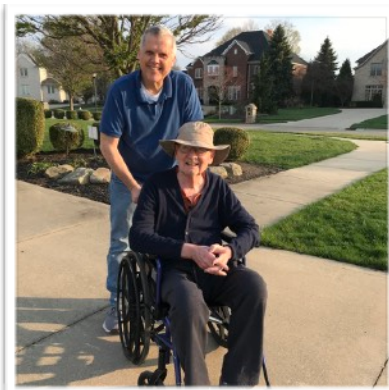
Joshua & Todd



Katrina & Heidi



Heidi, Katrina & Miriam



Todd and Dad Reader



Date Night