



# The Pilalas Family

Missionaries to the U.S. Military in Misawa, Japan

January 2022

## 2021

Last year, we saw many things happen that changed our lives. These included miscarriage, dear friends moving away, losing an aunt to COVID-19, and pandemic-caused changes sweeping through our base every so often. We also had some joyful events, too, such as watching our boys Jesse and Sammy grow and mature, experiencing the love and faithfulness of our local church, and visiting Jesse's parents and our sending church.

### Former Faith Baptist Church Members That Have Moved

I was recently blessed to hear from a few former church members that have moved away from Misawa.

One accepted Jesus as his savior and was baptized right before leaving. He wrote me and asked what kind of Baptists we are, so he could update his registered religion with the military. It is a simple fact that the military stamps on dog tags and puts in paperwork mostly in the case of the military member being badly wounded or killed. It was a blessing to see this Christian want to make his faith known.

Another former member just returned from a missions trip to El Salvador with his son. They personally distributed several hundred care packages and shared the gospel with each one! I love to see people that I got to know in Misawa doing work for God all over the world!

### Visiting Parents and Our Sending Church

Our sending church is Eifel Baptist Church in Spangdahlem, Germany. Jesse's dad Rusty Pilalas is the pastor. We were able to go and visit for a few weeks around Thanksgiving time! We praise the Lord for a wonderful visit with family and an opportunity to visit with our sending church. The unfortunate part was that because of the surge in COVID-19 infections, we were not able to spend as much time with the church family there as we would have liked, due to Germany's strict restrictions in response to the pandemic. We did get to see some of the church members and I got to preach at the church on one of the Sundays.

Overall, it was a major blessing to get to go. We had not left Japan for three-and-a-half years before that, and my dad had not gotten to meet our son Sammy yet. After just a few days there, Sammy took to yelling "Papa!" with delight whenever he thought his granddad was nearby.

## 2022

This year, we pray for the Lord to bless our family and our ministry in great ways. I hope to preach more, pray more, and witness more. In the years before the pandemic, there were regular special public events that we looked forward to as opportunities to share the gospel with literally thousands of people at a time. Hopefully we will see some of those return this year.

### Special Request

My older brother and some of his family have COVID-19. So far for him it is mostly just mild cold symptoms. Please pray that they recover without any long-term health issues.

Thank you always for your love and support!

-Jesse Pilalas