

We're...here?

At a glance:

- Answered prayers for our move!
- Neighbors old & new
- Prayer requests

We're...here?

For the first time in our marriage we are living in a home and city **indefinitely** and it feels...strange. But also great! Every step that we've taken toward getting here has come with a relatively clear end date, a rough idea of when we'd probably be taking the next step in this journey. But now we're here and there's no "next step" on the horizon. Undoubtedly there will be transitions and challenges ahead, but this place is where we want to be for as long as the Lord has us here.

Praise the Lord that, logistically, our transition has gone just about as smoothly as possible. We were expecting to have to jump through all sorts of hoops to get utilities turned on in our home. We thought that at least one thing would break in the move between cities, at least a cup or something. But we're happy to report that we have signed a rental agreement in an apartment complex that we love, all of our utilities are turned on (even WiFi!), *and* nothing was broken or even damaged in the move. Woohoo! All of our boxes are unpacked and we're excited to make this place a warm, welcoming place for all who enter.

Neighbors

Thank you for all of your prayers for good goodbyes in the big city. We're thankful that we were able to say goodbye, face to face, to all of our closest friends. In fact, the night before our 7am departure we were thinking of an older couple that lived next door. We had been hoping to see them to say goodbye, but we just kept missing them. It was probably 8pm or 9pm when our doorbell rang...who could it be? It was the neighbor bringing over some desserts! What a gift that God allowed us to see them one more time before leaving. We are **really** missing our neighbors and friends in the big city. A few days ago R was talking with one of our neighbors who said, "I even miss seeing your strollers in the hallway." Cue the tears :(

God knows how to encourage our hearts, though. Tuesday was Baby M's first birthday (!!) and we had planned to have a small party with our teammates outside at our apartment complex. In some sort of five-loaves-of-bread-and-two-fish situation, what had been prepared for our **two** families ended up being shared with **six** families! We struck up conversations with other families at the park and one by one each family joined our little party for Baby M. One of the moms we met even drove to the city center to buy her a

present because, despite us telling them to please not worry about it, coming to a birthday party without a gift would be completely *unacceptable*.

We went from knowing zero people in this apartment complex to having a handful of new friends in the blink of an eye. We weren't even *trying* to meet new people last night but God brought those people into our lives all the same. R met up again with one of the moms yesterday for coffee, and A scored an invite to a Tuesday night soccer group. Praise the Lord for answering our prayers for friends, inroads into the community, and for a smooth transition.

God has people in this city. There are sheep ready to hear their Shepherd's voice! May these new friends have ears to hear the good news and receive new hearts and lives in Christ.

Please be praying for our transition:

- Please continue to pray that our one-year residence permit applications would be approved here. We will be submitting our applications in the next two weeks.
- Continue to pray for great communication in our marriage, grace for ourselves and for one another, and that our words and actions would glorify Christ.
- Pray that the Lord would establish his Kingdom in this place and that many would come to know him!

Grace and peace,
A+R+J+M