

At a glance:

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Remembering the gospel.

We are continuously grateful to the Lord that he has called us to live and minister in this beautiful country. Being in this country has been life-giving and encouraging, convicting and refining. We are so glad to be here, but boy oh boy do we sometimes tremble when we stop and think about *what it is that we are trying to do here*. Our role is intimidating and we can feel unqualified. The responsibility is enormous and we can feel so weak.

But on the good days and the hard days alike we remember the gospel, which we must take care to not forget ourselves as we try to introduce it to others. Despite our sin and rebellion, Christ pursues us. Despite our weaknesses, Christ uses us. Despite our failures, Christ loves us. In the face of unpleasant circumstances, we can look forward with anticipation to the day when everything is made perfectly right, forever, because Christ came and lived a perfect life, died, and was raised again to be seated at the right hand of God - paying for our sins and making a way for us to be made righteous. What a reason for hope and joy! In the face of feeling fearful or unqualified - whether us in our context or you in yours - let us remember that it is through Christ alone that hearts are changed, that hope is found, and that his endless comfort and joy is made available.

We don't know what you may be feeling in your contexts, but over here we are seeing lots of despair, disenchantment, anxiety, pain, and fear. The terrible ongoing wars, economic instability, and political unrest exacerbate an already-present sense of hopelessness. But even though the problems of the world are many, there seems to be a spiritual hunger emerging as well. Many are asking questions such as, How could a good God allow such suffering? If God is real, why has he not made himself more obvious to me? Where can I find hope? How can I know what is true? Does my life even matter? Do "good" and "bad" even exist? (These are great questions, by the way. How would you answer them?)

We want to be a light in the darkness, to come alongside those that are broken-hearted, to comfort the downcast, to love selflessly as Christ would, to be poured out for the glory of God. Please pray that God would soften our friends' and neighbors' hearts and open their ears to hear and respond to the gospel.

Lord, use us (all of us!) for your purposes. May your Kingdom come in this country and may your name be known among every tribe, tongue, and nation.

We've got wheels!

Thanks to extremely generous gifts from our partnering fellowships, we were able to purchase a family vehicle! And let us tell you, it has been an absolute game changer.

We've been able to drive to the capital for medical appointments, to other parts of the area to visit friends/coworkers, and to parks & farms for picnics with our neighbors. Having a vehicle has really been a huge blessing to us. Not having to rely on reliably unreliable intercity bus schedules and being able to stop whenever we want along the way (read: bathroom breaks and diaper changes) is incredible. Getting by without a car was a bit easier in the capital city with the extensive public transportation systems, but it was pretty clear after moving to our new, much smaller city that getting a car would be game-changing.

Our deepest thanks to the incredible fellowships that helped make this a possibility. We feel so loved and taken care of! Pray that this vehicle would be a blessing to our family, our team, and our local friends.

Even more game-changing...

You know what else is game-changing? Babies. You know who is having another baby? We are!

We're excited to announce that R is pregnant with baby #3! So far it's looking like a healthy pregnancy for both R and the little goober, but please be praying for continued growth and safety for both of them. R plans to deliver in our new city (sometime April/May) but if for some reason it becomes a high-risk pregnancy we'll likely plan to give birth in the capital, which is where M was born.

Woo, babies!

On the home front

- R turned 30 last month, we celebrated our eighth wedding anniversary a few weeks ago, and later this week A will also turn 30! M is walking (one speed: fast) and J is twirling and skipping all around. J is still loving her school and often comes home singing new songs in the local language. As winter approaches we'll

be spending less time outdoors at the parks and more time indoors - so please pray that J and M grow in their ability to play well with one another (and while you're at it, pray for us to parent them both well!).

- A's sister and her husband came to visit us! They were here for a little over a week in early October. It was so special watching them interact with our girls (meeting M for the first time!) and getting to show them around our city. It's very hard to say goodbye to family, but we are so glad that they were able to come. Our cups are full!
- We recently traveled to the capital for some medical appointments, one of which was an evaluation of how well M's skull is recovering from her surgery. Remember when she was in a helmet?! Time flies. Praise the Lord that her recovery is going very well. We'll go back in about six months to have her skull scanned again.
- Our visas are valid until next June but we're already thinking about the visa renewal process. As you might remember, we're currently on a tourist visa. Tourist visas used to be pretty reliably given out to people like us, but this past year has shown that we will likely need to find another way to stay in-country. We'll share more about this in the future, but please be praying for us to have wisdom and unity about how we can stay here in a way that is legitimate, that makes sense to the locals, and that allows us the capacity to work toward seeing a church planted in this place.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update and pray with us. Love to you all!

Blessings,
A+R+J+M+???