

Update from A&R

Heading north again this weekend!

At a glance:

- We're hitting the road tomorrow!
- Baby M's recovery is going very well
- Baby J turned two!
- How you can be praying

To the Sea...again!

There are quite a few provinces in our country that border the Sea, and we're going to visit them all!!! Not really. Well, maybe someday but not anytime soon. But we are heading out tomorrow morning to visit another of the Sea provinces where a team from our company recently landed and is serving. Like other trips that we've taken before, we'll be asking ourselves: what about *here*? Could the Lord be leading our family us to *this* city?

It will be the smallest city that we have visited so far, and by a decent margin. The city that we're visiting is about 1% the size of our big city ☺. Could we live well in a city of that size? How would we be received as foreigners in a place where very few foreigners live? It would come with challenges but there would be benefits, too. That's true of any city, they all have their pros and cons. In what type of city would we thrive personally? What do we need to consider for our kids' education, health, and social development? What's our best contribution toward seeing these places reached with the gospel of Christ? Most importantly, where is God leading us? And as eager as we are to look ahead we know that tomorrow is never guaranteed and so we also strive to be faithful to the community and to the moment the Lord has for us NOW.

It's a lot to think through and can feel pretty overwhelming at times. We would appreciate your prayers for wisdom, patience, and unity. **Please pray for safe travels, discernment of how the Holy Spirit is leading, and for us to have good attitudes (patience) during the long car rides with a two year old and 3 month old.**

Baby M is a champ!

A few hours after we handed her over to the hospital staff we received a text from the surgeon, "**Surgery is done. Everything is ok.**" *Woooo!*

It's been incredible watching Baby M's head change. Despite the swelling (poor girl had an eye swollen shut for a little while) we could tell a difference in her head shape even just a few hours after the surgery was completed. Amazing. She seems to be completely unfazed by her helmet too, which is fantastic for all of us.

The first week after the surgery was pretty difficult for us but, all things considered, the surgery and recovery process has gone very smoothly. Thank you all for your prayers over her surgery, for her recovery, and for our hearts in the process. This has definitely been one of the most emotionally heavy things we've faced as a young family and we're incredibly grateful to walk through it with such an amazing community behind us.

Baby J is TWO!

We had such a fun celebration with our local friends and other foreign families like us. It was so great seeing those two worlds collide and encouraging to hear our local friends comment on how sweet, kind, fun, etc. they thought our other foreign friends were. This is the aroma of Christ and people really are attracted to it! And what the heck how do we have a two year old?! To be honest one of the hardest things about being away from friends and family is that J is just so much fun we want everyone to experience her! Thank you Jesus for an incredible two years with our firstborn!

Prayer requests

- Pray for our trip this weekend to be productive and protected
- Pray for Baby M's continued recovery
- Pray that our marriage and parenting would be God-honoring
- Pray for open doors to share with local friends and neighbors about the hope that we have in Christ
- Pray for steadfastness in language learning - we've come a long way but there remains a long way to go!
- Pray for discernment in terms of what God has for us after our time in our city

Oh yeah, we forgot about that rule...

At a glance:

- Our trip is postponed until next weekend

If you haven't yet read the update that we sent out yesterday, you may want to read that one first.

On the way to pick up our rental car this morning, I remembered something. For a foreigner to rent a car in our country, they need to have an exit/entry stamp on their passport that is no more than six months old. Well, I (A) last entered the country in February so my eligibility for renting a car has **expired** and we were not allowed to rent. This realization was a pretty big bummer since we were nearly completely packed and excited to hit the road this morning! We had already prepared some snacks/PBJs for the road so we decided to have a family picnic at a park down the street, which was a nice pick-me-up.

To get new passport stamps I will be taking a super-quick roundtrip flight this week and then we'll try to make the same trip happen next weekend. We will need to be able to rent a car for future trips like these and also when we host R's parents later this month, so it will be good to have fresh stamps.

Please pray for safe travels and that Baby M and J would be on their best behavior while I'm gone :-)

Thank you!