



The desert shall rejoice and blossom... they shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God
Isa 35:1-2

Family News

I Will Recount Your Wonderful Deeds - Ps 9

This morning, during my devotions, I read Psalm 9 and the first verse reads:

*"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."*

It occurred to me that much of the Christian walk is captured in this verse - God has been gracious to us, so we proclaim what He has done. Firstly, we proclaim His wonderful deed in sending His own Son for our sins, but we also praise Him and speak of the good He has done for us in our lives - prayers answered, gifts given, grace received and all the good we receive from His Father hands. His faithfulness and care for us in the past also give us confidence to ask and trust Him for future requests.

It is with such a grateful heart that we are writing this email - our prayers, and your prayers on our behalf, have been answered and we have confidence in our Father answering our requests graciously in the future too.

His Wonderful Deeds

We found a good doctor for Anna and Baby Popcorn!

Anna went for coffee one morning with our kind neighbor, and asked her to help get a doctor's appointment with a local OBGYN. She not only recommended a good doctor that can speak some English, but she called for an appointment and went with Anna to the doctor to translate the first time.

Anna has now been to the first appointment, with scans and blood work and everything seems good! Thank God for answering all these prayers!

She also was struggling with extremely low energy, even in this second trimester and we are also so thankful that it feels like she is out of that valley! She is still experiencing some pelvic pain (SPD/PGP) that she'd love prayers for though.

A new rhythm - All 3 in "school"!

Finding a good option for Johnny while we are studying language had been another big concern for us. We had been paying extra for our Arabic courses to take them one on one so we could switch off being with Johnny half the day, but we were eager to find a way to be in class together and give Hannes a chance to make friends and settle in to life/culture here too.

We feel like God has opened up the door for a great option! Another ex-pat family recommended a preschool to us, and we decided to take a week or two to dive into potty training and then sign him up. The first day was pretty rough, but the second and third were very encouraging. God gave us lots of peace even as being in an all-Arabic speaking environment is a BIG challenge. You can read below about how to pray for Johnny in this tough new normal. We are thankful for loving teachers who are generous with their hugs and comfort!

We are now diving into Arabic together while our little guy is at school and our classes are going great! We still feel like such beginners but it is an answer to prayer to have time set aside to really dedicate to learning to communicate.

6 Groups - Reminder of Purpose

The last thing we want to praise Him for is reminding us of purpose. It is hard in these early stages to always see the reason we are here — so much of our energy seems taken up with the basics of learning how to have simple conversations, just maintaining normal daily life and figuring out how to problem solve new puzzles that emerge (like the water heater that exploded this week). But in the midst of feeling fairly useless, **God has answered us by convicting us to pray daily for the people we have relationships with already: Our friendly landlord, our caring neighbors, the friendly store owners that we see every day etc....** Even though we can't hold deep life-conversations in Arabic yet, we can be faithful in the small ways.

He put 6 different people (or groups of people like Johnny's teachers) on our hearts and we decided to assign each a day — Monday through Saturday to just pray for them. We want to start small! We may not have much to offer people here but He has MUCH to offer! We are excited to watch Him pursue these wonderful people in love.



Items for Prayer

As we look back and share of just a few of the prayers He has answered so graciously, we'd love to ask you to lift up a few more items to Him!

- **Johnny - after having a great first few days of school, he has been struggling** with going and asks us every morning if he can stay home instead. He cannot understand what teachers or other kids are saying and tells us that he mostly chooses to be by himself and just hold his bear "Chappy". Even though he seems content when we pick him up, we'd love prayers for him to start feeling more comfortable playing with little friends and to keep being brave through this tough new adjustment.
- **Anna's been suffering from extreme pelvic pain - please pray that God would give her comfort** and that he would provide a good affordable car for us as that is becoming more urgent and cars here are extremely expensive.
- **Our 6 relationships** - even in the tiny task of praying faithfully for the people God has given us to love, we need His help! We'd love your prayers for them and for us as we pray for and get to know them.
- A friend here and **fellow worker has had to temporarily leave due to some medical issues**. Please lift her and her family up as they are making decisions about where to get the care she needs. Ask for her deep encouragement during this difficult time!

- **Our Team Leaders**, who have been stuck outside the country for a long time, **are here on the island** quarantining. When they get out in a few days, we will finally get to spend time with them in person before **they enter our “Beloved Country” next door to scope out the situation**. There are MANY things that need discernment from Him — how secure is the previous location/questions around reopening the business/other possible open doors for work etc... **Please lift up our time together and their time in country. May the Spirit give them great clarity!**

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