

Shotgun Journals: When God Hits the Pause Button

Sometimes going forward can actually feel like going back 10 steps. In reality, God is writing your beautiful story! I do not believe He is concerned only for just a piece of the journey but instead in the longevity of the whole picture. This is the word we got for the season we are in "longevity."

Everyone's missionary story looks different. Regardless of the order or how you get to the goal, I believe the call and the life comes in steps of obedience and faith.

We have a calling to Roca Blanca Missions Base. But it didn't start with the call to work with short term teams or to work an English program for the Bible students or to translate base videos into English. No. It started with a call to language school. To better our Spanish, to gain the heart of the people, to build relationships, and be obedient and follow what God was showing us to do in faith! And we did that.

Throughout our time here, God has shown us a few things. He's given us vision of things to come. He's given us discernment to not go to certain places (something we will share with you all very soon). And He's told us we need our paperwork in order and we need more funding. Living in another country is expensive whether we realize it or not. Just think about how much it costs to move from house to house or state to state and now think of moving to another country. On top of buying basic needs, needs of a family/kids, Christian schooling, new everything (furniture, appliances, etc- things we will need to purchase when we get back as the Spanish school provided those things for us at the time). This is not even including traveling expenses, car maintenance, and any unforeseen medical needs or retirement/ college funds. This is after all our career, our job!

Due to some very rare circumstances, we found out we were required to drive back to the border from which we came. But in doing this, it opened up the opportunity for us to start to apply for our temporary residency visas. If we are already going to the US, we might as well save more trips and money and do now what we will only need to do later. If we do this now, we don't have to go back to the Texas border every six months, but instead simply renew where we are and focus on what God is doing through us here in Roca Blanca. We also would not have to go back to the states again to do this process later and spend more time and money doing it then.

The second opportunity, this provides is to go ahead and raise more support. Raise the support that God has promised to not only fulfill financial needs but also have the empowerment that comes when the body is behind us. Financial support is huge in missionary work. It is what fuels the work! And in order to do what God is asking us to here in the Roca Blanca Base, we need to bring consistent, monthly support for our family of 6.

Currently, we are at about 28% of the goal God has given us. We will be going back to New Jersey for about a month or so to take care of our temporary residency for Mexico but God has showed us to also visit churches and raise more of the support we will need to be full time missionaries here for the base. As in the past, we are allowing God room to move in regard to where to go, what to say, and His time frame. He has full reign to do as He pleases in our lives and on our adventure with Him.

If your church is interested in hearing our story and possibly supporting us, we'd love to stop in and share what God is doing in us and through us. Or if you personally feel led to commit to us with monthly support, we encourage you to be obedient and watch the faithfulness of our God in not only supplying our needs but yours as well!

I will say this! God confirmed in my (Ivonne) heart recently that we are supposed to be here without a shadow of a doubt. When God asked us to leave temporarily my heart sunk. This is my home, these are my people, you led me here... and you want me to leave! Yes! And I wept! And you know what else?? My husband and children felt the same way. And sure we are excited to see friends and family and go on another crazy adventure, but the kids want to be reassured we will eventually be coming back "home." Even they know we are supposed to be here, that we are called here. And God reminded me of all the doubts and all the times I wanted to throw in the towel and go back to the way it used to be! He reminded me this is where I called you. I love that He confirmed it in my heart- it's not out of duty or just obedience but out of a desire that was planted in my heart. We desire to be here! We desire to be a part of what the base is doing! We desire to see the movement of God here and to see fire fall down on this place. It is where we belong; it is our home and as much as it pains me to leave, I know God is working it all out for our good, the good of His people and the long race ahead of us!

Pray for us! Pray for wisdom, Holy Spirit discernment, favor, shielding in the days ahead! Pray He opens supernatural doors and that we are received with open hearts! Pray for traveling mercies and for our family as we make this drive again, take the kids out of school and their new home, and fully trust God for our residency visas and more financial support so we can get back to where God has called us! What we can see as loss, is really gain for the longevity of the call!!

Thank you!!! You are a blessing planted exactly where you need to be for exactly this moment in time! We go onward to fulfill the call!