

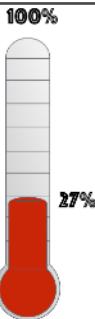
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NEWSLETTER



Waiting...

We have been waiting for our paperwork since September of this year! When you're in one place and know you belong in another, it's a little like your heart is in 2 places at the same time. We love New Jersey. We love our church, Passion Church. We love our friends and family, and we love spending time with them. But we also love Cacalote. We love the people. We love the friends and family we have made in such a short time of being there. We love the simplicity of living there, the hot sun beating down on us, and the smell of salt water which is right down the street. We miss seeing all their smiling faces, the fishermen with their catch, and the people climbing coconut trees. We miss all the kids that gather at our house to say hello, play with our kids, or ask to come in and spend time with our family. And we miss our dog (who is being cared for by an amazing family down there)!! It's funny being back. It's different but comfortable all the while being temporary.

We have been able to connect with so many people both old and new. As God opens the doors, we have been walking through them. This is all so new to us, and it can feel so uncomfortable; you can feel so unsure of yourself. But I love how God steps in time and time again to remind us it is not us, but Him. We do what we do because we love Him and love to serve Him. We do what we do because He loves people. And we love the people He loves.

The main purpose of our visit was to get our visas for temporary residency. We had an invitational from the Roca Blanca Base. We went to the Mexican embassy in NYC...twice. The first visit, we were somewhat unprepared. We went in with one appointment and without all the proper paperwork filled out. The second time, we had 5 appointments (one for each family member), we over prepared (if that's even possible), and went with all the proper paperwork and signatures. But they still did not want to give us all approval for temporary residency. So we left. As hard as that was, there were many things in play, and we really felt at peace. We had done everything we were told to do and if God wanted to close this door, we were certain He would open another. After receiving a few phone

calls, we felt we needed to go back. We ended up going back to finish some of our paperwork. Technically, we finished what we set out to do. I can't go into all the details now until it's all finalized, but we do ask that you pray for us. Sometimes you have an idea of how something should be or how it should work out, but sometimes God has ways of getting us to the same outcome, just in a different way we thought was ever possible. His ways are not our ways; His thoughts are not our thoughts. And He is a good Father who sets us up for success. He is for us not against us. So once again, out of our comfort zone, we trust Him.

And with all that, our time in New Jersey has come to an end and the time has come to head back home. But not before we celebrate Christmas and New Years with family!

Pray for us! Our plan is to leave soon to spend some time with our family in Florida; then head to Texas to spend time with our Corpus Christi friends and family; then head into Mexico and back to Cacalote. Please lift us up as we leave. We are leaving many loved ones during the same time we left last year. Although we know we are called, it is never easy leaving!

We originally thought we were going to leave before Christmas but there was just a little unrest about the timing. So we paused, prayed, and felt peace about staying just a few days more. You know, we make our plans (which is not a bad thing) but it's the Lord who determines our steps. Living out Proverbs 16:9, never seemed so real. So thankful that we can trust in Him!!

We ask you pray for our safety and His perfect provision ever step of the way. He is faithful. We know He is able to provide above and beyond for every single one of our needs.

Thank you as always for following our family, for your prayers, for your love, and for your support! And most importantly, during this season, Merry Christmas!!! He is the reason for the season, and we are so thankful we get to celebrate Him!

Merry Christmas!!!



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