



NEWSLETTER

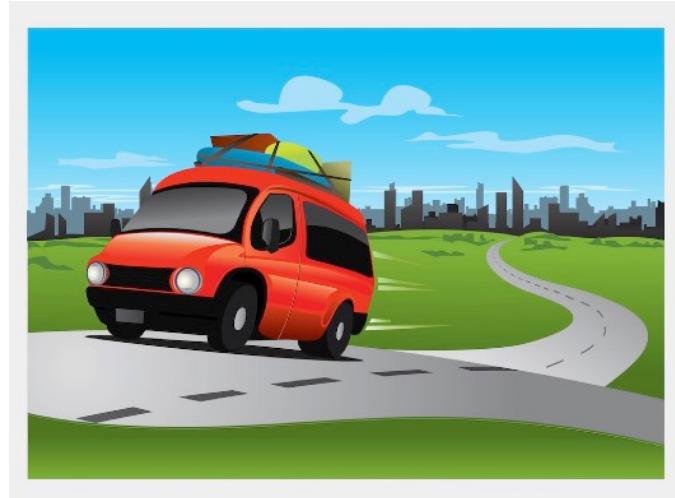


AWAITING CLEARANCE AND PERMISSION TO LAND...

Sometimes it's not even about the destination but the **JOURNEY**!

THE JOURNEY...

Our journey began all the way back in September when we knew the Lord was calling us to leave Mexico for a time, come back to the states, and take care of our temporary residencies. It took 4 months to finally get all our paperwork and stickers together to be able to head back! God had given us the word for January so we knew we were heading back then. Once the purpose of us being here was fulfilled, we felt a release to head out. There was some hesitation and concerns, however, about



crossing the border but we were obedient to leave and kept pressing in for His perfect will and timing. On January 10, we headed toward Florida. We spent about 3 weeks just soaking up the time with my parents in Florida, enjoying them and the time spent! When our time was up, we moved on to Louisiana and met up with Amy, another Spanish school student from Roca. What a wonderful time we had catching up with her and eating po boys and beignets! There, we were also able to connect with someone who was heading in to Roca. He is a connecting factor to what we will be doing with the base and so we were able to share some of our concerns. We had not been in contact with anyone from the base since we left. We prayed during our whole journey of course, but at this moment we felt led to really press in more about His timing and if we should proceed. After the week and after praying, we would connect again and see where the Lord had us and how to proceed. After one night in Louisiana, we needed to again be on our way. Our next stop was Texas...

Texas...so close to home, such a midpoint for us, and such a place for our turning point. We said it was like the Red Sea. It was either going to part or pause us there. This is where we got the word from a friend, "holding pattern- waiting for clearance and permission to land." A little over 2 weeks in Texas had been such a blessing to our family! There, we were able to connect and stay with a family from our very first group we hosted in Roca. We were able to connect, share, pray with one another, and lift one another up. Just as God was transitioning us, He matches us with this family in the body that is going through similar transitions! So we get to walk it out together and support, encourage, and speak into each others lives. Furthermore, we were also able to connect with more of those from the group to Roca and attend Rock City, their church. This church has really been a rejuvenating point for us. It's another church home, and officially our midpoint for recharging. Years ago, Ivonne heard Texas as a place highlighted to us. We are eager to see how God incorporates this location and church into His plan for our lives.

There in Texas, we prayed and met nightly as a family to share what God was showing us about our next steps. During our nightly meetings and devotions as a family, we were able to slowly but surely make decisions about pressing forward. Sometimes you pray and there's no answer. It's this odd place between trusting Him and stepping out by faith into things we've never been asked to do. As a family, we shared dreams, visions, and words God was giving us to show us what to do.

WHAT GOD HAD SHOWED US:



—James and I would be going to VBI in Mexico in September 2018.

Finishing this would not only be for our benefit but for a better connection with the Mexican people and people who serve on the base. Maybe it's like a rite of passage or maybe it's to fully understand the vision and direction of the people we will be partnering with, but either way, it was something we were about to start last September but had to

pause to situate our paperwork first. One thing we have noticed with God is nothing is done without purpose. There is purpose to the process, and His timing is simply perfect. VBI doesn't start until September...which led to our next question. Lord, do we go to Mexico now, have the baby, and do whatever you show us in the mean time, or do we stay in the states, have the baby here, situate her paperwork, maybe visit a few more churches or possible partners, and believe for our truck? We have been going back and forth on if we should ask for a truck to drive safer and more effectively through Mexico. And suddenly it all seemed so clear...God if you want us to turn around and wait and stand and believe for these things and go down the way you are showing us then okay...we surrender.

- We will plug ourselves in with teams in Roca while going to school.
- More and more God was showing us our baby girl needs to be born here in the states (including showing us through a prophetic word given to us through a church member in Texas).
- We need a truck for safety and comfort and a trailer to carry all the supplies back safely. We are believing for a Suburban and small trailer.

We connected to intercede, pray, and catch up with our good friends and pastors. Through praying, they spoke out our truck and instantly I felt them call it into our lives! Sometimes you need that. That point where someone close to you speaks what you truly want and need because you're too busy saying it's ok Lord, it's not a big deal. But sometimes it is...God says ask and you shall receive. How can I receive what I don't ask for? How can I believe for something I don't believe I need or deserve? Thankful for the Lord constantly reminding us to run to Him. He already knows what we want before we ask, but He wants us to ask!

Through our family conversations it's amazing how God reveals himself. This process is not for my husband and I alone, nor is it for our eyes alone to see God work.

Our 3 older kids have been on this journey, included in every step of the way and watching how God directs our steps and is faithful in the process. We shared dreams of seeing us turn around or hearing words like "we need to all be in agreement" "timing" and being willing to wait. Our



oldest even saw a vision of a map of the US and the way God was showing us to take back. There's an amazing thing that happens when agreement occurs...it allows God to move. It allows room for surrender to His will and to hear Him clearer. So by the end of the week, we knew what we were going to do and believe for. That weekend we heard back from our contact to the base which confirmed everything.

SO WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE US??

Heading back to NJ! See so many can say- what you're just going to turn around because of timing? The answer is YES!!! Because missing His timing, missing the mark is missing God in our eyes and so we have no problem waiting or pausing our motion to fulfill God's perfect plan. We will wait for all the things He has shown us to come to pass, and then we will head back "the right way," God's way, before September. And the amazing thing is that so many people can say you went all that way for nothing but to turn around, but it was the exact opposite- this trip was indescribably purposeful!

SOME AMAZING AND GOD APPOINTED HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR TRIP:

- Spending quality time as a family on the road (there is something that happens to a family that has to be in tight quarters for hours and stay in various hotels and homes). We definitely get to work together, share laughs and stories, and unite on such a higher level.
- Listening to podcasts and live streams of timely messages.
- Spending much needed and purposeful time with family and friends in different parts of the country.
- Despite sickness, Jacob spraining his knee, and Leilani spraining her ankle, God still healed each one of us and we were able to keep our joy on our journeys.
- Being able to minister to a family in Louisiana who were stranded and needed money for a hotel. James was able to pray and speak into the husband Mark's life! Pray for him and his family! That God will draw them near to Him once again!
- In Texas, we had actually seen some spiritual warfare and had to fight in the spirit for certain battles attacking the church there. We got to pray in the spirit with church members after a Sunday service for a woman's freedom from demonic holds on her life. She came to curse the church but said, "the light here was too bright." JESUS!
- Jacob got to pray over a boy (a witch's son) for release and freedom from that...and had a dream of an army...in front of the army were buckets and a boy vomiting into a bucket ...the Lord

showed us that just as the boy was giving up these harmful spirits, and that there were still more empty buckets for others to release them and join the army of Christ!!

- James Jr. got to trust deeper that He hears from the Lord when God revealed a vision- a map of our next steps to him.

- In knowing the Lord has put a Suburban on our hearts, James felt led to go test drive one. There, he got to meet and minister to a brother in Christ who was going through some health and family issues. He was able to pray with him and the man spoke into my husband's and our life including telling him how anointed he is! Imagine how God loves to encourage us through perfect strangers to give us exactly what we need or what we need to hear. What a divine appointment...again!. Pray for Jorge and the restoration of his marriage. Pray that he will be the leader and example of Christ's love for all of his family during this time.

- We were able to stay in the home of our wonderful friends, the Longs, in Texas. They not only blessed us with room, board, and home cooked meals but we also got to pray, fast, and uplift each other on our journeys as God calls us to step out more into our destinies and callings!!! We believe our time here was purposeful as our kids and we as adults got to connect on a deeper level and be a blessing to one another (iron sharpening iron).

- And last but not least, we got to finally meet the Pastor of Rock City Church. We had already settled it in our hearts that we would probably not meet him this time around (as we didn't have a chance to meet him on our first visit here as well), but God extended our visit in Texas only to provide divine appointment to meet him and connect our worlds. On our way back down, we will not only have opportunity to connect with Rock City but we will be pressing in on what God would have us do and share with the people there.

You see it's all in His timing. And if we are willing to wait, we will see the promises He has promised us come to pass in our lives! Maybe it's not in the way we think or the time we think, but that's the great thing about knowing God and trusting Him. He knows!! And if we follow Him and His ways, we will never be disappointed!

We thank you for following our journey and adventures and for continually lifting us up in prayer and supporting us. We are excited about our next steps and look forward to sharing more of His faithfulness in our lives. Stay tuned...the best is yet to come!!

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