

ON THE ROAD AGAIN!!! (Ivonne's Shotgun View)

(THE SHORT VERSION)

A year and a half ago we left Mexico after living there for almost a year. We left to come back and get our family temporary visas to stay longer in Mexico and coordinate out of area teams for the Roca Blanca Missions Base.

It was supposed to be a short trip....there and back in less than a few months.

BUT it did not work out the way we thought it would! I don't think it ever does! We think we have it all figured out, but then God steps in and shows us we really had no idea what He had planned- you really have no idea, so stop trying to figure it out or assuming you know it all!! A lot of times, His plans for our lives are a lot bigger, a lot more intricate, and a whole lot better for our lives than anything we could have imagined. "My ways are not your ways, my thoughts are not your thoughts."

As we were paused in this season of unplanned, unprepared, and (what seemed like) nothingness, we asked God- okay, well, if not that, then what? And time and time again we all (including our oldest children) heard TEXAS.

God had placed a special place in our hearts for Corpus Christi, Texas. Particularly for a church called Rock City Church. A mission's team from Rock City had come to serve with us in Mexico with the base, and we had gone to visit them a few times in our travels through the US. Time and time again, we knew we would be going down at some point to partner with what God was doing there. We just never knew how soon it would be!

GOD'S WILL DOES NOT ALWAYS MOVE IN A STRAIGHT LINE

While living at the Jersey Shore, I attended a bible study with some local ladies. On the first night, one of the first lines was this: "God's will does not always move in a straight line." AND IT HIT ME. When we originally headed to the US (NJ), we were filled with the idea of going straight back to Mexico. But what we ended up doing was staying in a place where we had no jobs, no place to live, and little to no support. It was a tough season, full of disappointments in what seemed like everything and everyone including God. BUT GOD! Then God, in his perfect timing, swept in and moved us from no job, no house, and a list of things to do to 2 jobs, a beautiful house, and more checked off that list than we had thought. He restores. He redeems. He shows His faithfulness. When we came back from Mexico, God gave us a list of things that would need to come to pass before we even thought about going back to Mexico. Alina (our daughter) needed to be born; we needed a truck (4x4); and a trailer; and we needed to be better supported. More than 1/2 of this list has been fulfilled- 2 in the last few weeks of us being here in NJ. And now, we are moving to Texas.

God showed me on this journey, that just like the roads we drive on, there are turns and detours; there are people and missions to be involved in or with, and many times this occurs in the midst of heading to other plans and purposes. But just because it doesn't look like you thought, doesn't mean it's not good or part of a bigger picture.

We can't tell you if or when we are ever going back to Mexico. We whole heartedly believe we will, but it may look different than we thought. We can't tell you if Texas is a forever stop either. But what we do know is God has ignited a passion in us for people, families, for nations, for culture, for missions, and for outreach. He's shown us what it means to have little yet so much. He's shown us what it means to love and trust Him in the most dire of situations. And He's placed a desire above all to serve and be obedient to Him no matter what the cost. He has

shown us that no matter where we go, what we do, or who we are surrounded by, HE IS ALL WE HAVE; HE IS ALL WE NEED! When we started this adventure, we vowed and surrendered to go where He shows us to go and do what he shows us to do. So we press on and as we step out in obedience to this next step of our faith walk of life, we ask that you pray!!

Pray for our family as we move again to unknown and uncharted territory. Pray that we will have a smooth transition and stay united and passionate about the road ahead. Pray that all He wants to do in us and through us will be done. We don't assume anything, but instead, we stay present and take it one step at a time following the steps He sets out before us. You lead, we'll follow, Lord!

Thank you all for your prayers and love for our family.

This song, these words of worship, have been the cry of our family's heart as we go into the next season of our journey:

