



June 27, 2023

Learn, Grow, Change, Repeat

MINISTRY UPDATE

It has been such a blessing to be learning and growing alongside 38 other missionaries this past month at the Center for Intercultural Training (CIT) in North Carolina! Before arriving, we were coming off an especially exhausting month and honestly didn't know what to expect from this month, but as always, the Lord knew exactly what we needed!

We learned so very much about our incredible God and his love and care for us, and these wonderful, biblical lessons were weaved throughout our cross-cultural training in order for us to better enter the places the Lord has called us to. Our children had the incredible benefit of learning alongside similar-aged peers about what it means to be a Third Culture Kid (TCK), while we adults met in a separate space from 8:30am-3:30pm, Monday through Friday. We shared many lunches and dinners with these co-laborers, interacted for hours during class, activities and assignments, getting to know one another better every day until these dear friends now feel like family.

We pray the hours of learning, growing and changing together will now lead to a lifetime of repeating this process on our field of ministry. We will leave NC after 28 packed days of training, recharged, refreshed and ready for the calling God has placed on our lives!



Words cannot express how much we grew to love the people we trained alongside this past month. These two are just a few of the friends who are now "family" to us as we go throughout the world for Christ.



[LEFT] One weekend, we were asked to conduct cross-cultural interviews. The kids especially enjoyed our talk with a gracious Chinese restaurant owner as he let them sample some traditional Chinese juices.

[RIGHT] We enjoyed a college summer baseball league battle between the Forest City Owls and the Macon Bacon. One of our new friends was from Georgia and wasn't appreciating the owl fever that was catching on around her.



FAMILY UPDATE

As many of you know, we were recently frantically purging and packing in preparation to put our home in Indiana up for sale. During this process, I begged Frank to remove a bent, old tetherball pole that's been in our backyard since before we bought the home 3 years ago as it was looking a bit sad. I stated, "No one will buy this place with that old pole back there." We were just too busy though to get it done.

After a fast and furious month, we officially listed our home for sale on Friday night, June 2. Early the next morning (Saturday), we drove to North Carolina for our month of training, unpacked and settled into our new home away from home. After 3 showings, by Sunday evening, we had accepted an offer on our home!

When our realtor asked what drew the buyers to our home, their realtor's response astounded us. Evidently, when the buyer was a little girl, her father gave her a toy that she loved and played with almost every day. When she saw this toy at our home, she took it as a sign that this was the house for her. What was that toy? It was the "eyesore" of a lopsided tetherball pole in our backyard. Yes, the same one that I had asked Frank to remove just a few weeks before became the one thing that the Lord used, in His sovereignty, to draw this woman and her family to buy our home. When we realized what God had done, we could do nothing but praise HIM for orchestrating these details so perfectly!

But there is more!

Also, right before leaving for our training, we booked the details for our shipping container to be loaded within the window of August 2-4 in preparation for the big move. As a result, we knew that when we did get an offer for the house, we would need a flexible buyer who would let us stay in our home until our things were picked up in August. The buyers the Lord gave us will not only be closing at the end of July, but will also allow us to stay (rent-free) until August 5 (the day after our things will be loaded and gone). Our God is a God who enjoys details!



[LEFT] We enjoyed celebrating Frank on Father's Day while at training. We enjoyed an incredible Mexican meal in Asheville, NC, and the kids made Frank a card and gave him a fun, new t-shirt. Our kids truly have the best dad!
[RIGHT] One of the many blessings of training was being a bit closer to some friends. We were blessed to have dinner with Tori's college roommate, Lorrie, and her family last week!

PRAY FOR US!

- **PRAISE!** Our home sold in just TWO days! Please pray for the remaining details for the sale to go through smoothly. The closing is scheduled for Monday, July 31.
- Our visa appointment is Monday, July 3 at 11am in Washington, D.C. Please pray our visas would be approved on this first attempt so that we can be in South Africa by September.
- Please pray for our remaining 3.5 weeks we will have at home in Indiana to finish purging and packing. They will be busy and emotional weeks.
- We want to finish well! We have some tough goodbyes in the weeks ahead!

UPCOMING PLANS

JULY:

- Visa appointment at the South African Consulate in DC (July 3)
- Indiana church meetings
- Pack shipping container
- Last Sunday & Commissioning

AUGUST:

- Family Vacation (friends loaned us their vacation condo for some rest before we head to the field)
- Belated birthday celebration with

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