

SEPTEMBER UPDATES

Settling in Fort Worth to the new norm:

Just a little over 3 weeks ago we made the big move to Fort Worth. It was hard packing up our things and saying goodbye to Amarillo, with so many memories in our home, and with friends, and family. It still hasn't fully sunken in yet, it almost feels like at any time, we need to go back to our home in Amarillo, realizing after that our home is here. Always using the GPS map, not knowing where everything is, or which way to go... As we've stepped out in faith, we have leaned on the Lord (our GPS) for direction, help, and comfort. As a family, we can't do none of these apart from Him!

Now being here for almost a month, we have finally gotten our house in order, and it is finally looking more like our new home. Eliya and Ezra started homeschooling the day before we left Amarillo and are in full swing doing that. There have been some challenges, as Sandra is learning how to do school all over again as she is the new teacher (thankful for the internet and YouTube). It feels like through the challenges and difficulties, God is drawing us near to Him. We have seen our kids laugh, cry and question this big step of faith at times. We have seen joyful moments and times when we have felt homesick. It's been hard and lonely at times, but also there's been precious moments where we see God showing up in our pain. We are thankful and trusting that in all of it, God is with us, that He will never leave us nor abandon us. He remains faithful and His love endures forever!

One of the things we have enjoyed so much doing together as a family, is riding our bikes in our neighborhood. Thankful that God cares for every detail in our lives. We also celebrated Eliya's 14th birthday and our 15th year anniversary!

Jeremy is still looking for a job. He has been applying for different jobs but trusting God with His provision and guidance. Please continue to pray for that.

ADS Classes:

We have now had 3 classes and a 2-day kick-off retreat since we've been here. One of the things that we all did at the retreat was, everyone shared their testimony. It was amazing to see God's power, healing, and grace in how everyone came to know the Lord. It was a good reminder of how much He loves each and every one of us right where we are...Throughout each week, we are given homework; journaling, reading books from the bible, other books that pertain to our Christian Walk, and/or missions. We have been enjoying it, growing, and connecting with people. We have been so grateful for Antioch Fort Worth Church and their love they have poured out on us since

we've been here.

Homeless ministry:

Proverbs 19:17 "He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given."

Through one of the books we are reading in our ADS class, I was reminded of this verse, and how good it is to show grace, mercy, kindness to those who have nothing. Since being here, we have been asked to be a part of this ministry through the church called, "For the One". A sweet lady at Antioch Fort Worth, the Lord put it on her heart to go after the "one". Every Tuesday and Friday we have about 8 bags full of snacks, drinks, toiletry, hygiene, dog food, a hot meal, and hot coffee. After praying we drive in about a 2 miles radius from the church looking for the 1 in need. We give them the bag of goods and ask if there's anything we can pray for. Since doing this they have built many relationships with those living on the streets. In the last 3 weeks since Sandra and I have been helping, I have been reminding of, 1. The power of prayer, 2. The need for a little love, and 3. We all want to be seen (even those on the street). Even during several of our times of prayer with some, we have seen how Gods love overwhelmed them with His presence as they started to cry. It also convicted me that even in our busyness of life, how often do we ask the Holy Spirit, if someone needs prayer? We are living in a world and time when people are hurting, needing hope, needing Jesus, and just a little prayer. What if we, instead of being rushed to get to our next thing or hurried to avoid someone, we just ask the simple question, "Is there something I can pray for you for?". "For the One" is a ministry that goes in search for the one to show them that they are loved and that they matter. Is a great example of what Jesus did for us. He went in search of us, the one, because He loves us so much and He called us His. He chose us and met us where we were and loved us as we were. Praise Jesus that He came for the sick and made us well!

God provision:

Before leaving Amarillo, one of our needs for us moving here was a need for another car. Well, the Lord answered our prayers and with the help of Country Auto Group and a group of about 5 people, the Lord blessed us with a car! On top of that, there has been so many of you who have helped us financial and continue to do so, words can't express the gratitude we have towards all of you. You have blessed us beyond words!!! For Sandra and I, it has just reaffirmed us that we are listening, following Him and for our kids it is teaching them, that when we obey the Lord, there is blessings. It's not always easy but He does provide for us, "Where God guides, He provides" and that's not only financially but for all things...

From the Swan's, we want to thank you all for your continual prayer, love, and support for us while we are here in Fort Worth.

Prayer Requests:

- For a job for Jeremy
- For godly friendships for our family
- For a smooth transition as we still trying to adjust to this new life
- For wisdom on how to approach homeschooling with God's joy, patience and trust