

Missions Update

From bulletin: January 23, 2022

MISSIONS FOCUS: J&D, OMF, creative access region

Our Missionaries, their health and ministries affected by Covid-19

From today's bulletin

Welcome to the New Year! Just as Abram heard the Almighty tell him to pack up and go, they also feel that God is saying it is time for them to move and go. They had been ready to leave prior, but postponed the leave time *twice* due to Covid and visa uncertainties!

Some of the final preparations they need to complete within a couple of months are: get student visas, start online language learning (9 hours/week), quit their jobs, take an orientation course online starting at 5 AM, finish lending, storing, donating, packing the rest of their possessions, receive long term vaccinations and leave.

Specific requests: completing health procedures, ending current employment well, stamina for a lot of online meetings and classes, final preparations, traveling safety and that God will keep the way clear for them to leave.

Nearly the entire letter, emailed January 3, 2022

Dear "Family"

Welcome to the New Year! Just as Abram heard the Almighty tell him to pack up and go, we also feel that God is saying it is time to ship on out. We had been ready to leave prior to now, but we pushed back the leave date *twice* due to COVID and visa uncertainties. This time around, we feel with some certainty that the time is now!

These will be a few busy months. In rough order, we will:

- apply for our student visas
- start online language learning: 3hrs/session, 3 sessions/wk

- travel for training
- quit our jobs
- finish lending/donating/storing all our possessions (down to the walls!)
- begin a month-long 5 am online orientation course
- finish long-term vaccinations
- be commissioned by our home church
- leave (exact date still TBD)

We are generally excited to see this effort progress after so much setback. Sadness sometimes edges in when we realize that the world will be different when we return. For example, our relatives/friends will be in a different life stage when we return, missing all those intervening years. It occasionally hits us that many dear people will be out of our immediate lives.

Having to put together our living trust/will was an especially contemplative process, as was sitting still and thinking about our possessions. How do we discern what to store, trash, or donate? Is it better to store or loan? How do we go about processing all our physical memories? Still, the way forward is clear: "forgetting what is behind and straining forward to what lies ahead."

So please pray for us in these coming months! There is much to do, and the time will be up before we realize it.

Please lift up:

1. Smooth sailing with needed health procedures and care
2. Finishing well at our current jobs
3. Stamina for online education
4. Being good stewards of our possessions and finding good homes where said possessions will be a blessing
5. Safety during our travels
6. MOST IMPORTANTLY: God keeps the way clear to go

The Psalmist wrote:

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!" (Psalm 133:1-2)

Indeed. Your ministry to us sanctifies, consecrates, and prepares us for a lifetime of service. **Thank you, all, for supporting us!**

For more updates, visit bacbc.org/missions.

Thank you for reading about and praying for our missionaries, countries and people locally and globally!