



A Blessing for 2023

"May we continue to hold on
to the light and faith within us,
as we believe and long
in confidence and obedience,
for our promise of His coming
in the midst of our joy and suffering."

(based on Hebrews 10:32-39)

*Hello dear family and greetings
in this 2023rd year of our Lord!*

This new year prompts us to look forward, make plans, be open to new insights and yet we seem to not be able to look forward without looking at where we are at and where we have been so that we can move forward. *The reflections of our last seasons are able to guide us into transitioning into our new season.*

There are a few things we already anticipate happening this year but there is so much that we don't know yet and for both we need faith and courage.

Here are some of the things we have been up to the last couple of months:

We found out that one of Anna's brothers has stage four cancer and the prognosis is not good. He may have six months or so while they continue with chemo and radiation to hopefully keep him from declining too quickly. Anna has gone and spent time with him and his wife for a weekend to see how we can engage with them in this season. She will go back every couple of weeks to support and be present with them. More in the prayer requests below.



David has been busy helping missionaries with his ability to fix things and make things. There are washers, dryers and cars that are now repaired as well as tires changed. He has also continued meeting with the men around a fire. His ability to quietly listen and pray is such a gift and so appreciated by those he ministers to.



Anna finished her program to be certified as a spiritual director. She was doing this online over the last two years and went for her final intensive course to Spain late November for a week. This program has really stretched and grown her and it has and will benefit her ministry with women, especially those she meets with one on one.



We helped orchestrate a funeral for one of the families here as they gathered their relatives and friends for their mothers celebration of life. We were so grateful to have done this before during our years working at Hosanna!



We were all together as a family for Christmas! Megan was home for a month and Hannah was with us for two weeks. We are so grateful for this special season together. Next year may be completely different.



Hosting Rachel for a couple of weeks on her break from teaching in Kazakhstan was also a homecoming. It was so fun to have her here again after one and a half years. Lots of good family time and fun adventures were savored.



At the beginning of this year some of us also got sick with hefty flu's. This slowed us down quite a bit and gave us those mandatory rest periods. Much longer rest periods than we would have liked but we are on the mend and grateful for energy to do what we are called to do.

Now we are back in full swing of our daily, weekly, monthly meetings and rhythms that bring out Christ in us and in those we meet.

A few photos at the bottom...

Praises

- Our family was able to be together plus a few extras. We were able to enjoy and savor these special times. Megan is back to work and is even given a more favorable shift. Praise God!

- Thank you, for praying for the BFA staff as they discerned their commitment for this year. Several who had considered leaving this year are staying and that is a good thing as they are needed. Some are leaving or moving to other places and that is also a very good thing. Now we trust God to provide all that they need for all of them. There will be a couple of missionaries again this year that we will journey with and help as they transition.
- Praising God for another year of living out His calling and purpose here and for the support, finances and strength to do so. We are still in awe of what He does and wants to do through us. Thank you, for lifting us up and supporting us!! May He bless you and reward you richly for your faithfulness.
- Praising God for balance! Thank you, for praying for wisdom and grace for us as we met with new missionaries and what our involvement would be. As the year wound down we have a good sense of what our capacity is and are feeling balanced going into this new year with the amount of work we have before us. Not feeling overwhelmed is pretty good!

Prayer Requests

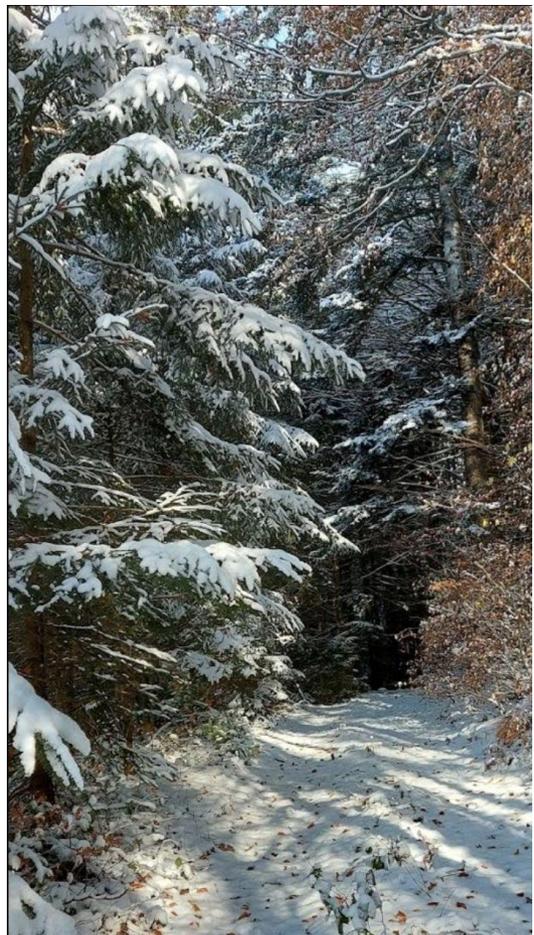
- Continue to pray for Micah and these last 6 months of school. Pray for discernment and open doors of what exactly he should do when he graduates.
- For Hannah to find a job that fits her. She is applying again to several positions. Pray for the right fit and location.
- Pray for Anna and her brothers family as they journey together this year on this hard road of suffering and death. We are praying for a miracle in his body but more so for a miracle in his heart to fully give his life to the Lord. Pray for Irene, Jenny, Andy, Davide, Loris and Isalee.

- Please continue to pray for these new families and individuals that we engage with: - The O. Family: They are settling in and there is less stress and strain. They are still growing as a family and into this community so pray for wisdom and peace. - The W. family for their marriage and balance in ministry and family. They have three sons. -The S. family for rest, wisdom and recovery from their previous seasons. - Pray for K. a single missionary as she navigates if this is where she is truly been called to serve.
- Pray for the missionaries that are leaving their fields this year, either for a year or permanently. These are huge shifts in their personal and ministry lives and usually affect them greatly spiritually. Pray for protection, provision, courage and for faith to increase.

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