

Dear Friends,

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We pray that the holidays have been a joyful and refreshing time as you celebrated the birth of Jesus! We had a beautiful Christmas and a quiet New Year (as one does with a toddler!).



But the season has also been busy as we have been traveling, fasting, praying, and discerning. Now as 2020 begins, we want to give you an update on the latest missions happenings:

1. Despite much work, we still don't know where we will be serving.

In our last newsletter we shared that due to visa issues, we would no longer be headed to serve as missionaries in Greece. Although this was extremely disappointing, we have been working on other options to serve in Europe. We believed that there was one really great fit and so right before Christmas we took a whirlwind trip to see our emerging work in Romania. We were cautiously excited because we'd both been to Romania before, we knew the language would be easier to learn, the culture is open to community church planting, and the organization Free Methodist World Missions partners with their works with vulnerable people groups. Unfortunately, this last weekend we heard the final word that this option is not going to be a possibility. And so now, we are back to the drawing board without knowing where we are going.

2. Our current plan is to slow down and widen our search for where God would have us.

We were appointed as missionaries to Europe and for that reason we have spent the last month discerning options in Europe. At this point; however, we don't believe there are options that fit our gifting and passions. With that information we can take a step back and see where else God might have a place for us. This means we will begin to look at Free Methodist ministries in other world areas as well as domestic missions options. Recognizing that this will take more time, we are looking into six month job opportunities and leases so that we can have some stability and don't feel pressured into choosing just whatever option, but the option God would have for us.

3. Your support has meant the world to us. Please continue praying and encouraging.

You have been the best part of this whole process! It has been a testimony of God's love the ways in which you have reached out and encouraged us and prayed for us since you heard our news. Thank you for your outpouring of support! It has made all the difference in this hard time. We still find ourselves there as we are disappointed over this last opportunity falling through and lacking direction of what God would have us do. Pray for peace, wisdom, and direction as we broaden our vision.

2019 Highlights

Despite the difficulties of this last year, we would be remiss if we didn't share all the ways God has blessed us. Here are just some of the highlights:

- We sold our house for a price that generated profit.
- We were able to pay off ALL our student loan debt with the profit from our house!!
- Our Florida family surrounded us with love and support as we closed that chapter of our life to go to Michigan.
- We have had a stable place to live and call home these last few months as everything else was up in the air.
- We had the privilege to share about Jesus' heart for Europe with 26 churches, 8 Greek Nights, and 3 annual conferences.
- We were honored to listen to the stories of the countless people we met and hear how God is working in their lives.
- Ellia turned 2 (!) and has delighted us with her love for music, jumping, and giving thanks in nightly prayers. We are thankful for friends her age that she has made this year and we have had fun watching her with them.
- We celebrated 11 years of marriage! And our thankful for the forever and ever still to come...

Highlights from the Holiday Season...

- Top 2--meeting missionary friends in person in Hungary on the way to Romania
- Middle 2--seeing the opportunities in Romania
- Bottom 2--celebrating the holidays at home



