

July 4, 2006

Dear Ones,

For some time God has been moving in our hearts, trying to gain our attention. For at least that same amount of time we were distracted by other things, mostly good things, but things other than God nonetheless. We had one, then two, then three incredible kids.



And, we had a marriage, and jobs, a dog, a house, and friends, and, well, “life.”

Through good, bad, and ugly, God finally said, “enough.” I have better plans for you than any you could make up. So, it is with great fear, hopefully wisdom, joy, tears, smiles, and love, we are writing to you that we are leaping to a new life.

We will begin training to serve as missionaries with Youth with a Mission (YWAM). Please check them out at www.ywam.org. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. This is our calling and desire and, at this time, we don't know where all we will be taken, but we are ready to go. Friends who have been or are a part of YWAM have served in such places as Arkansas, Cameroon, Mexico, Albania, Hawaii, Columbia, Kazakhstan, and the list goes on.

We know it sounds crazy. We know that because it sounds crazy to us. Here is a biblical word picture of where we are. There was this guy named Jonah. He had a happy life. One day God told him to go to Ninevah. That was just plain craziness to Jonah. Instead of obeying he got on a boat to Spain. There's nothing wrong with a nice trip to Spain. Many people did it. Meanwhile, many people around Jonah stayed right where they were and did their normal things like growing olives, raising kids, buying and selling, etc. And, the others on that boat to Spain were just doing their normal thing - sailing, trading, fishing, whatever. None of those things that everyone else was doing was wrong and, by all appearances, were exactly the things they should have been doing. The only person we know was doing anything wrong in all this was Jonah. He wasn't obeying what God told him to do. So, he had to do something utterly insane. He had to jump off a perfectly good ship into the middle of a raging ocean during a horrific storm. Similarly, now, God is telling our family that we need to go in a different direction. And, although it looks like folly to quit the all-American lifestyle while having two great jobs and a beautiful

home while having no other job except a dream of becoming a missionary, when God tells you to jump, well, jumping is a good thing to do no matter what it looks like around you. And, now, just as God saved Jonah from that tempestuous sea and delivered him to being one of the greatest prophets of all time, we have to believe that if we are trusting Him with our entire lives, he will provide a way for us.

By the time you get this letter we will be in Kona, Hawaii, at the University of the Nations (www.uofnkona.edu). We will be return to Fayetteville August 9th. In the meantime we have begun making the shift from being “for profit” to being not for profit and will need your support. Most of all, right now, we need your prayer and your encouragement desperately. We can feel totally safe and fulfilled in God’s hands one moment, and then feel like we are starting to sink into the ocean of despair the next. Your love, encouragement, and prayerful support mean more than it ever has before. And, that, again, is yet another thing that makes all of this worth it. Once we see, through this month of training, a clearer vision of where God is leading us to serve, we will let you know those details and give you a better idea of how else you might support us.

If you’ve seen “The End of the Spear” you may be familiar with the name Jim Elliot, who was one of the men who lost their lives on a mission to the Waodani in Ecuador. One of his quotes has given us great comfort: “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

May God be glorified through our lives,

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