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NICH & TRICIA BEEBEE

Coaching & Resourcing Cru Staff & Families serving Internationally

Friends,

Wow, so much has happened since our last newsletter. In the midst of impromptu homeschooling, the repatriation of hundreds of our international staff, and quarantining without going crazy, our regular correspondence fell through the cracks. Please forgive us for not writing sooner! We pray you have been healthy, safe and loved in this season!

Some good things we can celebrate in this hard time are Family Game Nights rotating through Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit and Taboo, classic Movie Nights and lots of time in empty parking lots as all the kids have learned how to ride their bikes! And we can say we know how to make some classic Chinese pastries as well as sourdough bread in a cinch!

During the beginning of COVID-19 here in the U.S., we coordinated with 75% of our international staff & interns who needed to come home. We can't even express the time spent on phone calls, video conferencing, and text messaging to help in the process of getting them all back to the States. Now we are thankful for their safety and how incredibly flexible they have been in transitioning to 100% digital strategy ministry. Would love prayers for our staff as they are adjusting to so much.

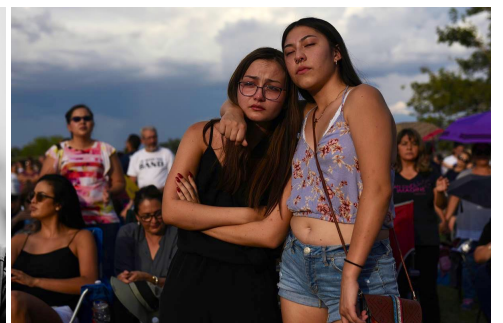
For me (Tricia), the stress of racial trauma, on top of the pain of our pandemic, has weighed greatly on my whole body. Growing up in Iowa, I very slowly learned what it was to be Asian. My dad is from Mumbai, India and my mom is from Hong Kong. They met in London, married and then immigrated to Iowa with my sister before my brother and I were born. Since my childhood, I've had many racial slurs and micro-aggressions directed to myself and my family. I realized even having darker skin made an impact on how people related to me. Even now I live out a dichotomy: I most identify as a Chinese-American but I usually am seen as a Latina of Mexican origin. Because of my experiences, my heart feels very drawn to those of darker skin because I know how melanin truly affects how one views you.



Working from home with kids.



Caring for those at greater risk of COVID-19.



Remembering the victims in El Paso, TX

August 3rd marked the 1-year anniversary of the El Paso, Texas mass shooting. After writing a 4-page manifesto titled "The Inconvenient Truth" 21-year-old Patrick Crusius entered a Walmart and targeted what he called "the Hispanic invasion of Texas" and tried to "kill as many Mexicans as possible." At the end of the day 23 Mexicans lost their lives (both immigrants and citizens) and injured 23 more. This specific group he wanted to kill were people who look like me and my children.

The pain of seeing my brethren go through trauma has kept me up many nights. Reminding myself that Black friends are experiencing injustice at the hands of police, Latinx & LGBTQ+ family & friends are remembering targeted mass shootings, Indigenous friends' stories are being silenced and forgotten, and Asian friends are experiencing pandemic-related racial slurs. My friends and family of marginalized communities are a source of deep comfort as we lament these tragedies and trauma.



Masked and social distancing on the Golden Gate.

Although I don't have all the energy I did, I see the Lord just opening up this door for me to shepherd our younger staff, especially our staff of color. When we simply ask, "how are you doing?" and "what emotions have the recent events brought up?", there is unity, great conversations to move us forward and many opportunities to grow in humility. Praying for us all as we learn, grow and respond together.

"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned." This verse in Romans 12 reminds me how intentional God was in creating each person and how important it is to cherish, protect and serve the marginalized.

Thankful to stand alongside you & praising God for you always,

NICH & Tricia