

A Season of Sabbatical

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”

-2 Corinthians 9:8



Prayer & Praise

Praise God for the gift of Sabbatical, for keeping us safe all over the country and for restoring us.

Praise God for Shawna Ketter’s successful reconstructive surgery after two years of pain following a life-threatening childbirth. Please pray for full recovery, mobility, & no pain

Praise God for Austen Kewin returning in June to serve with Thrive and for Emma (full-time) and Micah Litchfield (intern) joining us! Please pray for them and for all our new staff who are taking medical or guide training, that they might earn their certifications.

Pray for Thrive discipleship training for our church on May 30 and for Heather as I give the graduation address at our cop on June 6.



Check Out Our Blog

One of my dreams has been to write a book, but I have not believed it possible. These past months, however, I have kept a blog and have discovered that I love writing just for the joy of it. If you want to follow our travels go to Fiftytoforever.com. The password is: Forever I hope to keep it up!

Discovering That God Likes Me

Somehow I had slipped into performing for God, trying to win His approval and relying on my own strength. Having a chance to really stop and evaluate, I can see that despite seeking God and being immersed in the Word, and trying to rely on the Holy Spirit, I was failing to accept my own limits, and was filled with guilt for not being enough. I was missing God’s grace. I could not see that God loved me and that that was enough. HE is enough. I spent the first

month of sabbatical discovering this and repenting of my own effort and pride and doubt. From there I was overwhelmed by God’s faithfulness, and my own limitations... and my need for boundaries and rest... something that God knows I need and actually *wants* for me. I am learning to pray afresh: to ask and to wait and to believe the Lord. Our three-month sabbatical ended Monday but I feel like we are at the beginning of something new and exciting.



This sabbatical was a re-awakening to the gifts and passions God has given us. I have learned again to die to self, to lie fallow, and to seek God to stir the soil of my heart. We return now for the Spirit to grow and bear fruit.

Lessons Learned *Thank you for upholding us as we find our way back to life!*

We left for Sabbatical February 9th and spent the first month in Florida visiting with family, then drove west to Los Angeles to stay with my brother before making our way back home over 10,000 miles later. Living largely out of our truck and a smattering of hotels, we visited 16 national parks/monuments, attended 10 different churches, and listened to hours of audio books. Together Dan and I rediscovered that we love the

outdoors, that we are not too old, and that we have guiding skills to use and share. God also highlighted my love for the Bible, showing me that I have knowledge and enthusiasm for Scripture to pass on to others. For his part, Dan had time to think and process the Word, which has led to developing new ministry tools.

In our leisure time we chose to hike, bike, read the Word, or talk and pray

with strangers (OK, that was me 😊.) In short, both Dan and I have a new awareness and gratitude for our fit in the ministry of Thrive. Before our sabbatical we were both drained and feeling outdated. But, praise God, we are returning with hope, ideas, and assurance of God's long-term calling. I want to implement so many lessons—a whole new way of being— and fear we won't. Please pray that we will!



In Absentia

During our absence, our team has carried on God's work. Joe Cousins directed in Dan's place and many new events are on the calendar. Shawna had a successful major surgery on April 15th. Additionally, our new

university grad, Emma, applied to work with Thrive full-time and was accepted all while we were on the road! We are so blessed to serve alongside our own daughter. Our son, Micah will intern with Thrive too. The Lord has been teaching us to notice and celebrate His work, so we have been rejoicing in these gifts!