

Dear «Greeting»,

Sometimes God takes you through difficulties to refine your faith, sometimes it's to teach you something about his character, and sometimes you may never know why, but in those times we must rest in the truth that God is God and His ways are perfect.

That is where we find ourselves today, battling to believe that truth. Eleven months ago, we were sure that God was leading us to give a year of our lives to international ministry with a partnership campus in East Asia. Today, in as much confidence as we can have walking by faith, we believe that God is calling us to stay.

To paint a picture of all that we've been through spiritually, emotionally, and of course physically, would be practically impossible. I can only hope to give you an idea of what the process has been like for us in hopes that you will understand how heart-wrenching this experience has been for our family.

My guess is that most of you know someone or have yourself suffered from a herniated disc. It can cause varying degrees of pain, but nonetheless, pain on a consistent basis. After trying treatment after treatment after treatment, we were left with two options: surgery or simply wait, hoping that the body will heal itself over time. We researched the surgery and found it to be quite common, but also found that there can be long-term negative effects from shaving off part of a disc. Surgery may still be necessary if Heather's back doesn't start to feel better soon.

Ultimately we determined that with the age and physical demands of our kids, life in East Asia would be tremendously taxing on Heather's back. Carrying Teagan up and down three flights of stairs to our apartment, pushing and toting a stroller around, and constantly getting in and out of cabs to get around the city, are just a few of the things that have us believing that it would be unwise to go in Heather's present condition. It would have been natural for us to experience deep sadness and dejection after making this decision, but instead we have felt peace, optimism, and anticipation for what the Lord has in store for us.

As far as what we will be doing now. We will continue to serve at Ball State next semester while we explore possible leadership opportunities within our region beginning next fall.

We thank God for your prayers for us throughout these months. We believe that they have strengthened us and given us the endurance to trust God. If you have given financial support specifically towards our transition to East Asia, we want to give you a couple of options of how your gift can be used.

1. Your gift can be redirected to staff members serving in East Asia or returned to you by calling donation services at 1-888-CRUSADE.
2. Your gift can be used to meet the current and future financial needs of ours, such as mounting medical bills and transition to a new home (since we sold ours).

Please use the response card to indicate how you would like to allocate your gift.

Again, we are so thankful for your partnership in winning, building, and sending Christ-centered laborers to go and reach the world with the gospel.

*Jeremy, Heather
Ethan, Sydney
& Teagan*

_____ I will be calling Donation Services to have my gift redirected or returned.

_____ Please use my gift towards the ongoing needs of your family and ministry.

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