

JUNE 2021 UPDATE



Hello Friends and Family,

Does anything feel more like summer is here and that perhaps we are getting back to some sense of "normalcy" **than going out to the ballpark?** A personal highlight for us this month was sharing several days with Tannia's uncle and aunt, who are visiting the USA from Ecuador (primarily so they could receive the vaccine for Covid-19). Through the donation of tickets to our local baseball stadium by dear friends, we were all able to attend a beautiful summer evening watching our local team, the *Woodpeckers*, score a winning game. Thank you, friends, for the tickets. The evening was a perfect introduction to summer, and we enjoyed introducing Tannia's family to the American national pastime.

Thank you all for your prayers for our need to fill various of positions at the *Village Christian Academy (VCA)*. Since we shared the list of openings with you last month, **over half of the open positions have been filled**, or we are now actively processing multiple applications. There are still several essential positions to fill. Your continued prayers are appreciated. On a similar note, we shared with you last month that Tannia's sister, Gabi, had been offered the Art teaching position at VCA for the coming year. **Sadly, she did not qualify for the required visa** to move here from Ecuador. **So, she will not be joining us.** We as a family are very disappointed but confident in God's timing and sovereignty in all things.

Emma completed the **Third Grade** and is now enjoying her summer vacation, which includes participating in a day camp and fun events with friends (like the outing to the bowling alley pictured here). She is also taking gymnastic lessons and developing a love for reading. She continues to grow into a delightful, sensitive, and intelligent girl. We are so proud of her. At nine, **she is at the age of becoming more aware of many life issues.** Your prayers are appreciated as she matures and as Tannia and I do our best to disciple her and foster her understanding of what it means to follow Jesus Christ.



With the conclusion of another school year, I once again enjoyed the privilege of officiating at commencement, honoring the milestone of students completing their High School journey. At VCA, **approximately 20% of our students have been awarded full-ride scholarships** to universities in the Fall! We are very pleased with their academic success but far more pleased with their resilience **amid the most challenging school year** they have faced. Congratulations, Class of 2021!

Thank you for your prayers for the **ongoing training, consulting, and remote mentoring sessions** (sometimes very early in the morning or late at night) as the ministry continues supporting **school leaders in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, and Vietnam.** And next week, I will **board a plane for the first time in over a year** to facilitate an in-person school leadership training for three days in the state of Washington. Have vaccine—will travel! ☺

Finally, we are **making plans and arrangements to travel to Ecuador as a family in December** of this year. This trip will be both a personal (spending time with family) and a ministry trip, providing aid and support to many who the pandemic has tragically impacted. For the entire family, travel is quite a costly investment. **Please consider making a special donation to Ripe For Harvest to assist us with off-setting the expenses of the trip.** Your help is personally and deeply appreciated. Thank you!

Yours for Christ,
- Toby (for Tannia and Emma too!)





Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ designated for the ministry of *Toby & Tannia Travis #20245*.

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