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Happy 50th Anniversary to Mama and Papa!!

Getting settled

We made the move to Perkins, OK on Aug 1. God answered our prayers regarding accommodation with a well-priced, mostly furnished apartment just two blocks from the middle school (Titus and Alexis) and less than a mile from the elementary (Grayson) and church. I've always wanted to live in a downtown loft, but didn't anticipate it being in Perkins, or with three kids! The downside is that there are no laundry facilities, so we feel like we are in college again toting our laundry around to friend's and family's houses.

Our primary focus was getting the kids ready for school, enrolling and buying supplies. Titus got his first ever sports physical in time to take part in the final weight room session of the summer. He then began football practice the week before school started. This is his first experience with organized sports, but since he claims that he is going to be a Denver Bronco when he grows up, he needs to get started :). This was also good because it afforded him the opportunity to



First Day of 6th, 7th, and Kinder

Prayer Requests:

- **Prayers for Tim**

Would you be praying for my friend here who is really facing a hard time. He is a 31yo father of four with an aggressive form of cancer in its late stages. I've been able to spend some time with him at church and while receiving his chemo treatments. They are such a sweet family and need our prayers for strength and comfort.

- **Praise for good news**

Shawnda's August biopsy came back negative (which is positive!), and we are so grateful. It is something that we will have to continue to keep an eye on, but for the time being we are in the clear. Thanks to so many who've been praying and encouraging.

- **Eye trouble**

In a routine eye exam, we learned that Titus has dangerously thin corneas and needs to have surgery as soon as possible on both eyes, with the left eye scheduled for Sep 27 in Tulsa. We will do the right eye a few weeks later, once the left has healed. Grayson caused us concern a few days later when his left eye suddenly became "crossed" for about 5 hours. A trip to the optometrist alleviated our fears that it might be something neurological, but made us aware of the fact that he was struggling to focus and needed glasses.



get to know some of the boys in his class, as well as the coaches/teachers early. Our family took part in our first ever "meet the teacher" night, which also helped calm some anxiety as our middle schoolers were able to meet their teachers, practice unlocking their lockers, and do a walk thru of their daily routine. Grayson is blessed to have Mrs. Hill as his kindergarten teacher, whom we already know because we go to church together. School started Aug 22 and so far, so good!

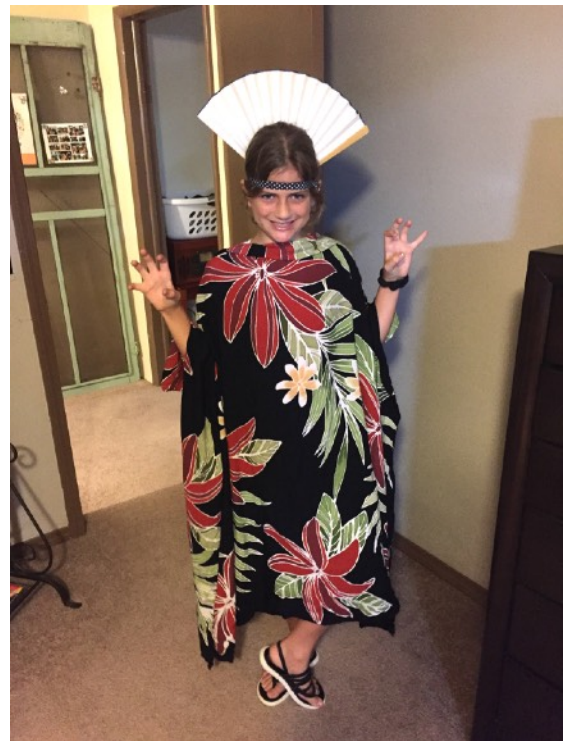
I started back to school this month as well. A generous friend is funding my pursuit of a Masters in NT from Harding School of Theology based in Memphis, though I will take the large majority of the courses via their interactive online platform. This semester I have class every Monday: Systematic Theology 8-11am and Greek 1-4pm. It's been an adjustment to get back into academic mode, but one that I'm enjoying. I also benefited from attending the two-day Tru Ministry Conference in Norman this month, along with two of our elders.

We've also settled in nicely to the congregation here, with everyone being extremely welcoming. Though they've been supporting our work financially since the beginning, and a few groups have made trips to visit us in Vanuatu, we've never been in Perkins longer than a weekend, which usually only amounts to a couple of hours per year together. Getting to be an active part of the congregation on a full-time basis has already been a huge blessing. I will preach on a fill-in basis as needed, and both Shawnda and I will be teaching some in the Fall quarter. And perhaps best of all, all three kids thoroughly enjoy the kids and youth programs, looking forward to every opportunity to be together with their new friends.

We finished out the month with some fun as well. Shawnda was able to fly out to Colorado and meet up with her sister to drive down to Southfork to surprise their parents for their 50th wedding anniversary weekend. They pulled off the surprise and had a great time together. On that same weekend, my parents gave Titus an early-birthday present and took him to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's presentation of Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back. If you know Titus, you know two of his favorite things in life are Star Wars and orchestra music, so he was delighted.

We aren't able to have much contact with our Vanuatu family, other than the friends who are house-sitting for us there. They are constantly on our minds and in our prayers, and we look forward to being reunited with them in due time. We have indeed begun to experience the break that we desperately needed, and we are so grateful for the opportunity. Thank you for your patient understanding, and allowing us to regroup, refocus, and reflect.

Grayson's first day of kindergarten



Alexis, our creative one :)



Ready for the orchestra production



First football practice