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Advanced Theological Research course at Harding School of Theology in Memphis

Countdown to Vanuatu

After spending the Christmas week in Denver at Shawnda's sister's house, we relocated to their parents' house in South Fork, CO. There was close to a foot of snow on the ground, and our kids really enjoyed getting to play outside in it during our last three weeks in the States. We especially enjoyed meeting the new preacher and his family while in South Fork, and we quickly became friends with them.

I had the pleasure of attending a one-week intensive course for my M.A. studies this month. It was my first time to visit the Memphis campus, and it was great to take part in the course in person. I really appreciated getting to meet my fellow classmates and some of the professors. We had a fair bit of reading to complete prior to the week, met from 8am-3pm Monday to Thursday, had homework each evening, a reading quiz and a midterm exam, and a spiritual formation retreat on Friday and Saturday. I now have a 6-8 page Bibliographic Essay on "the man of lawlessness" and a creative book report, and a final exam all due in the next few months. My other course for the Spring semester is Greek II, which began meeting every Monday on January 27.

Prayer Requests:

• **LaetHaos ministry**

We are now gearing up for our first LaetHaos event of the new year ... our Men's Camp that is scheduled for February 24-29. We greatly desire for this to be a time of renewal and strengthening for the men who are planning to attend from congregations around Vanuatu.

• **Transition**

Living cross-culturally has its challenges, and it will take us some time to recalibrate to our life and work in Vanuatu. We are grateful to be back amongst our friends and loved ones here!

As you might imagine, being away for 8 months was time enough for a lot of things to happen here, many of which are now being shared with us. It can be a bit overwhelming and we continue to pray for our Christian family: that marriages will be strengthened and congregations will experience the joy and unity God intends.

Our family has some significant changes upcoming. We seek your prayers for wisdom and providence as we continue to do our best to honor God in the opportunities he presents.

• **New school year**

Vanuatu schools follow a calendar-year schedule, so the new year is just beginning for us here. We are so proud of how well all three kids did during their semester Stateside, and we are once again asking a lot of them as they readjust to life and school in Vanuatu. Please join us in praying for their safety and success, as well as for their classmates and teachers.

Welcome home

Following one final speaking opportunity with the South Fulton Church of Christ in Denver on Sunday morning, we had an uneventful trip from Denver to Los Angeles to Brisbane to Port Vila, a trip that took a total of just over 25 hours. The kids did great and so far our transition back to Vanuatu has gone well. Titus (7th) and Alexis (6th) started school immediately, and Grayson (1st) will begin February 10. Shawnda and I have been busy getting unpacked and settled, including lots of running around town getting bills, vehicle, bank, etc., all sorted. I had somehow forgotten that it takes 3 days to accomplish a half-day's work around these parts, haha!



One last family outing for ice cream before departure!



Sledding in South Fork



Showing Papa how to play on the VR headset



Goodbye, US...



...hello, Vanuatu!