



Evans on Mission

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Staying Longer

As it turns out, our family will be staying in the U.S. longer than we originally planned. We were supposed to fly back to Germany on Aug. 1. Now we will fly back sometime in mid December. There is an agreement between Germany and the U.S. that when Americans have lived in Germany for 5 years, they must return to the U.S. for one full year or they must begin to pay German social security. The International Mission Board asked us, since we were already in the U.S., to extend our stay for a full year. This will enable us to be in compliance with this agreement, since this is our fifth year to live in Germany. Needless to say, this has caused various reactions within our family. Our children were disappointed that they will not be seeing their BFA friends for a full year. We were disappointed not to be able to reconnect with our BFA students for a full year. However, we are happy to have more time to spend with family and friends here. Also, we are happy Lee can get some more seminary courses completed while we are here. We know God's timing is perfect, and we trust in his plans for us.

Home Schooling??!

As we began to pray about God's plans for us in staying an additional semester in the U.S., we came to grips with the question of housing and schooling. We have been living in our pastor's house, and we are grateful for their sacrificial gift to us. However, we were planning on moving out by Aug. and will need to follow through with that plan.. Thankfully, the mission house in Bulverde (where we lived in Dec. and Jan.) is available. As we discussed moving back out to Bulverde, our children began begging to be home schooled. Coming from a town with virtually no traffic and one stop light, the traffic and time that it took to get to SACS from Bulverde was unbelievable to us. Emmalee was feeling very hesitant about beginning middle school here. Caylie just loves to be home, and Nathaniel is happy wherever he is. It is also difficult to keep up with the school schedule when we are traveling and speaking, so we think home schooling will add the flexibility that we are missing. So...we plan to bite the bullet and home school starting this fall. It just goes to show you should never say never. We feel this is God's gift of time to be together as a family for one special time period before returning to BFA and full time school and hectic ministry schedule.



Easter



Skydiving, freezing scooter rides, flips on the trampoline, late night movies, sleepovers, playing chase, these are just a few of the memories we have of David. He is one of our BFA students who became like a member of our family. Our kids call him their big brother. He graduated and is attending university in Arkansas now. He was able to come down and spend his spring break and Easter with our family. It was a very fun reunion. It was great to have him as a part of our extended family celebrations during Easter.

Adjustments

Emmalee has had the most difficult adjustment. She desperately misses her friends and fifth grade teacher from BFA. It has been very difficult to form friendships with her classmates here ie: no play dates or sleepover invitations. Caylie has had a difficult time with the work load at her new school, but has done pretty well socially. Both girls were brave enough to perform together at the school talent show. They did the song "Sisters" from the movie "White Christmas." They were adorable, complete with twirling boas. Nathaniel, is having a blast! He has amazing birthday parties and play dates at the park and is doing terrific in his school work as well. He is loving playing on a baseball team with some of his friends. All three of the kids played Upward basketball this fall, and really enjoyed it. Lee is doing more reading and paper writing for seminary than he remembers doing in a long time. He is meeting with several other men for accountability and prayer. Laurie is doing a book study with a friend and facilitating a small group study with a wonderful group of women.



On Mission Celebration

"Wow, I didn't know you could be a missionary using your profession." "I am glad to know what the wife does. It is encouraging to hear how God uses your gifts and calling as well as your husband's." These are a couple of the responses we got after speaking at a mission conference in East Texas in March. The people were so very warm and encouraging. We spoke separately at five churches each. God answered our prayers for boldness and clarity of speech. We made connections with individuals and churches that we hope to continue, and possibly visit in that area again. It was a great experience. Also, Lee was able to do another mission conference in Dallas following the East Texas one. We have enjoyed numerous other opportunities to speak at AWANA, and church groups as well.

Stateside Assignment Conference

We will be in Richmond for a conference next week. We will have further training, and the kids will be in school at the training center. Some of the training can be quite intense, so we appreciate your increased prayers during this time. While in VA we will drive down to Liberty University, where several of our BFA alumni are in school. We are so excited to have a reunion with them.

PRAISES

- Excellent mission conferences
- Provision of house and cars
- Loving friends and family
- Healing of a friend's child who had cancer

PRAYERS

- Safe travel and good time at training
- Wisdom for home schooling (curriculum & schedule)
- Provision for summer travel to speak at camps (kids to be able to come with us)
- Provision for Lee's summer seminary courses in Ft. Worth
- A great wrap up of school for the kids
- Care for our BFA kids while we continue to be away

There's No Place Like Home

We love our home in America because:

Our family and dear friends are here

People speak English

We can swim almost every day

Junk food and Dr. Pepper (need we say more?)

Christian radio

Air conditioning

Shopping the big sales (Ross Dress for Less!)

Wide variety of things to do for fun

Disney channel and American Idol