

September 2019

On Mission Together

Transitioning through different life seasons often brings challenges. Our international workers (IWs) have a series of seasons that they encounter. They begin with preparing to be sent to their region, they then arrive in a new region. After a term abroad our IWs transition back to Canada for their year-long Home Assignment before they transition back to their ministries. Through these transitions our IWs have learned how God is consistent yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Pray for each of these international workers, and their families, as they transition into their new callings.

Praise God for their willingness to serve in their areas of ministry.



Asian Spice

*Wendy and Henry**

As teenagers, Wendy and I moved with our families from Asia to North America. In 2016 we moved with our two preteen boys to Japan as international workers. Despite our own life experiences as third culture kids, adapting to a different culture while learning a new language was tough. We recently returned to Canada for home assignment and were surprised that coming back has also been tough. Toronto feels very familiar and yet, foreign.

However, the major difference between our moves before becoming international workers, and our moves after is that, now, we are moving with a bigger purpose. We are no longer moving for our own advancement in life, rather with advancement of the Gospel so that Japan can also have hope in Christ. God is moving, so why shouldn't we?

**Wendy and Henry are returning to Canada to begin their Home Assignment.*



*Jesus Christ is the
same yesterday
and today
and forever.*

Hebrews 13:8

Sea to Sea

*Keryn**

The preparation to move overseas has been a grieving process for the loss of many people and things I know and love. In this season of life, I have found great comfort in Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” The comfort here is not simply that God’s plans for me is good. It is Jeremiah’s affirmation that this is indeed God’s plan for Israel.

My church has been heavily involved in discerning my call to overseas missions. When I recall the strong affirmation of the community of believers, I find great strength and confidence to keep going because this is God’s plan for me—even when it is difficult. Since this is God’s plan and His plans are good, He is with me every step of the way and He will provide everything I need to say my goodbyes and to embrace what He has in store for me.

**Keryn is preparing to be sent to her region.*



Caribbean Sun

*Curtis and Tricia**

Transitioning off the mission field to accepting the role as District Superintendent for the Eastern Canadian District has led to eye-opening conversations with our children. When faced with the nomination, we went for dinner as a family to discuss what our steps would be. The conversations ranged from tears to dreaming together.

Our youngest son was silent, until we arrived home and he pronounced, “Well, wherever we end up, God is already there waiting for us.” When discussing schooling options, our middle son stated that learning yet another language would allow us to understand an even greater number of people, but that we should

consult God first. On a tearful taxi ride to the airport leaving Mexico City, my older son expressed how he was angry when God called him to Mexico but now he did not want to leave.

This has been a pattern—we often do not understand God’s leading in transitions and yet, over time, we come to realize how God is expanding our hearts. We did not want our children to miss a chance to be shepherded by Jesus through the change, but Jesus did not want us to miss a chance to remind us, through them, of His character.

**Curtis and Tricia are concluding their international ministry to return to Canada to serve in a role as District Superintendent.*



Desert Sand

*Keith and Melanie Haensel**

June was a month of incredible transition for our family, but God provided in amazing ways and continually reminded us of His faithfulness. We put our house on the market on the Thursday before Easter weekend, and the following Tuesday we had an offer. Through the midst of moving and packing we had numerous concerns including the kids last days of school being after the possession date, and how we would be able to move all our belongings out on time. In addition, Mel had a couple of papers to write as well. Looking back, it still amazes us that everything was completed, and we thank God for His provision and for the amazing people who helped us.

**Keith and Melanie Haensel are preparing to be sent to their region by completing a one-year language study in Quebec.*



Silk Road

*Ruth and Hans**

Our lives are like a mosaic with broken, black, and disfigured pieces, with God as the artist who masterfully puts those pieces together to create a bigger and more beautiful picture. When we have plans and dreams that get broken or blackened, we often turn to God and say, “This wasn’t our plan.” It is in these moments that God tells us, “Don’t worry. I’ve got this.”

We were in Montreal for an extra year of home assignment with plans to return to Calgary when things changed, and six weeks were added to our stay.

This is one of those moments when we asked God what He was doing. Looking back, we now see that He gave us extra time with friends in Ottawa, our son, and time to sell our furniture. This was a reminder that God cares about little things, like selling our couch. God takes our broken pieces and puts them in a bigger picture, and it is not until we step back that we can say, “Oh, that makes more sense.”

**Ruth and Hans are returning to their ministry having completed their Home Assignment.*



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