



COVENANT
CHURCH

2012 SPRING JOURNAL

The Aslan Anthology

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF REFLECTIONS & STORIES FROM COVENANT CHURCH



In the Midst of Illness

*God's message to
Job, Job's friends &
to us...I AM
SOVEREIGN*

I lay in bed and my eyes slowly open. They are heavy. It was another long night of tossing and turning, of getting up, walking around, laying on the couch, sitting on the couch, trying to fall asleep. Awake. Foggy. Frustrated. *When is this going to end*, I grumble. *How does one force themselves to sleep?* Impossible. *Breathe*, I tell myself. *Relax*. I try to convince myself that everything is going to be okay. Then the uninvited thoughts of what is going on with me flood my mind. It's a disastrous method for someone seeking slumber. I click on a light and sit in my chair in the fireside room. I groggily search for my journal and pen that sit beside me. I grab my Bible and flop it open to Job. I've read this book a few times for seminary classes and to seek insight desiring to bring comfort to my suffering friends, but this time I peer over the words and pages for me. *God, is there anything you have for me in this*, I ask myself. I read. I pray. I meditate. Then I write a culmination of thoughts in my journal of worship.

*God is there anything
you have for me in
this...*

Personal Side-Note Comparing the Book of Job to Christ:
Really... one could draw the conclusion that Job is actually

a story about Christ... Christ has wealth (all of heaven and earth), Christ is blameless and upright, God uses Christ to deal with Satan, Christ is brought low and experiences great suffering, the people around Christ misunderstand what's happening, Christ offers a prayer of forgiveness for the people and Christ actually becomes the sacrifice so the others don't receive the due punishment they deserve, and then Christ gets back all that he had before but "twofold" (the resurrection, sitting at the right hand of the Father, all the riches found in heaven and on earth in abundance because of his work in the world and on the cross... all the world can be saved).

Sunday A.M., April 22 (A little reflection as a "monk" in quasi-solitude)

I found myself back in Job today. Since my illness seems to change very little from day to day (some days better than others) I needed to go back and look for some answers God might have for me in Job.

First... here are some general reminders about Job.

1) After all that happens, God never actually tells Job about the conversation He has with Satan... Job never knows the *reason* he had to suffer

2) Job is actually suffering because God *believes* in him (1:8) God says, "There

Brian Frable



It's probably not the point of the story of Job... but I can't help but draw the correlation.

This is where I land on this day in my worship of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit:

1) I truly believe God is sovereign; he can heal me or allow me to be sick (Yet, my heart feels for the thousands... the millions that are far more ill and suffering to such a greater degree. In much of *that* infirmity and pain, which is not like mine, I know it is not God's plan for that to remain, but for God's people to bring compassion, relief and healing)

2) This sickness of mine is God's advanced seminary/discipleship course for me and maybe for others who are in relationship with me

3) We, as God's people, must covenant together to always ask the question, "How can God be honored and lifted up through this?"

THOUGHTS FROM JOHN OF THE CROSS

"God must take [spiritual consolation] away in order to purify the soul."

He describes how God worked in Job's life and how he works in the lives of those who know him today:

"Because of his love for us, [God] urges us to grow up. His love is not content to leave us in our weakness, and for this reason he takes us into a dark night. He weans us from all of the pleasures by giving us dry times and inward darkness... Through the dark night pride becomes humility, greed becomes simplicity, wrath becomes contentment, luxury becomes peace, gluttony becomes moderation,

envy becomes joy, and sloth becomes strength. No soul will ever grow deep in the spiritual life unless God works passively in that soul by means of the dark night."

§§§

Two days later I find myself in a camping chair on the riverbank up in Estes Park. Weak. Tired. Yet, still able to enjoy the beauty of God's creation around me. I breathe in the mountain air and think about what a friend shared with me not

too long ago, "Breathing (the lung) is one of the few organs of the body you can consciously control." Then I think to myself, *I suppose it's very much like the life in the Spirit; we actually*

do have some control over how much of God we take into our life. I feel the cool wind blowing. I sense the presence of God around me. Actually, the wind is really picking up. The clouds are moving in quick and drops of water splat on my hands, face and clothing. Gladly, I spy the coffee and book store on the other side of the river and make my way up to the toasty second floor. The booth by the large tall windows is open. I nestle in, enjoying the warmth of indoors. Now I can view the river from above and enjoy the folky music that creates just the right atmosphere for this weary mind and body that desires to be of full health. *One day*, I sigh. Pulling out my journal from my pack, pen in hand, I am compelled to write a new psalm from my heart and spirit.

Lord, have mercy on my soul.

You are good to me!

You protect me from all things necessary.

{God} love is not content to leave us in our weakness and for this reason he takes us into a dark night.

You turn my heart to peace in the waiting when I'm willing to lean into you.

In the Midst of Illness (continued)

*You turn my heart
to peace in the
waiting when I'm
willing to lean into
you.*

*Why should I be discouraged?
My eyes are tired.
My soul has much weight.
My neck swells.
My throat is weak to speak.
Oh, the strain.
What is in my body to make it low?
I feel like sleeping.
My heart is willing to serve.
My mind and body are frail,
often turning away from opportunity.*

*Oh God, give me the strength I need this day.
Sure up my strength
That I may serve you in your sanctuary once
again.
Do You wish for me to lead Your people;
to sing a new song in the presence of your
Assembly?
My life is in your hands.
It is you I commit my soul.*

*How long, O God, must I wait?
Have you numbered my days of rest,
of healing, of reflection?
I wait in quiet still prayer.
Is there an end to my infirmity here on
earth when I can live a robust
exuberant physical musical life
again?
Is that day near or far?
Will that day ever come?*

*You turn my heart to peace in the waiting
when I'm willing to lean into you.
You are softening my outlook,
bringing deeper truer forgiveness
to my will's most inner citadel.
Though my soul is deeply troubled and
concerned for all that don't know you,
Though my heart is heavy for the sick, the
thirsty the hungry and those who are in
prison.
Somehow you are slowly placing
humor upon my heart again;
A perspective that isn't so serious;
A lightened burden, a trusting heart.*

*Again I declare,
You are the sovereign one!
You are the one true God.
My life is in your hands.
The world is under your care and mercy.
One day all will be made right and whole
May Your Spirit pervade all things this day.
Save us, God, from lurking evil;*

*from selfish thoughts. from self-righteous
living, and from with-holding our love to the
world.
Bring healing to all, I beg. Amen.*

CLOSING REMARKS TO THE READER: I hope that this helps you to connect a bit to my story. Know that you are constantly in my prayers. I love this congregation and am deeply thankful for the various ways you've expressed love, patience and hope. I can't help but be thankful for my surrounding neighbors as well. There are five households right around our house, some followers of Christ and some not, that have extended kindness and help. I am truly blessed by the people God has put in my life. Though my condition currently remains the same (as I write this), there is much hope that this ailment will pass. What is it I'm dealing with? One main issue that keeps popping up is allergies (of all things). I've never been hit this hard by allergies, but it has been a doozy of an allergy season (I am told) and I just found out I'm allergic

*My life is in your
hands. It is you I
commit my soul.*

to the pollens of just about every tree, grass and weed in the area. Is this the main cause for my infirmity? That remains to be seen. Currently, I'm taking steps to bolster my health with rest, house environment control, allergy medicines, vocal exercises, and nutrition. Let's see what happens.

P.S. Thanks for not being like Job's friends, but truly showing me the compassion of Christ and believing in God's sovereignty; trusting His timing. I truly believe (as I believe we have already seen) that great gifts will come from this season. It's good to hear how Jeff Gibbs and others are spreading their wings a bit as they use their giftedness, talents and skill to build up the body. To God be the glory!

Pondering the Question of Prayer

Pondering the question “What is God doing in your life” seems to be a popular ECC- Christian refrain. I think I/we often answer it with evidences of the physical manifestations of blessings, solace or the relief of tangible needs. Recently for me the area of God’s “trabajo” work with me centers around prayer.

I have been on the prayer chain for a few years now and sometimes I have found the emails that come, kind of overwhelming. So much need, sadness and tragedy and the sometimes deeply personal revelations we are trusted with. I feel inadequate to the job of praying for all of the needs and sometimes the wants, sunshine for the baptisms, rain for the crops, and I think in a perhaps “green on the job” way. “What is prayer anyhow?” “Is there a class I can take on it? A book I can read maybe?” I even looked it up on Google and Amazon. I found hundreds of references to effective prayer, the keys to praying, the power of prayer and the books, oh my, hundreds of choices. Looks like I am not the only one with the question! I found just the right book with Pastor Bert Wright’s help – Bert recommended his favorite, Phillip Yancey’s book “PRAYER Does it Make Any Difference?”

That book and maybe my seeking heart has made a wonderful difference for me. We all have questions about prayer! Does it work? How can my prayers make a difference in an seemingly unfair world? Maybe closest to my heart is how? How do I pray so that God hears me?

Early on in the book Yancey says “I have come to see prayer as a privilege. I believe life with God should seem more like a friendship than a duty.”

What a relief those words are to me, when I pray I am strengthening my friendship with God and growing closer to Him. My prayer can be the best conversation of

my day with my closest friend!

Yancey goes on to say “If Prayer stands as the place where God and human beings meet, than I must learn about prayer. Prayer includes moments of ecstasy, and also dullness, mindless distraction and acute concentration, flashes of joy and bouts of irritation. In other words prayer has features in common with all relationships that matter”

How great is that. What better relationship to put my energies into than the one that really counts and helps all others be so much more.

My prayer can be the best conversation of my day with my closest friend!

I will be leading the Summer mission to Ameya the end of July . During the spring mini mission several of us helped celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the library, Biblioteca Gracias y Esperanza. Two ECC families, the Lyon’s and Borden’s were there and Diane led us in working with a lovely bilingual book on the Lord’s Prayer. It really focused our time with the many children who came to celebrate. It actually solidified the theme and basis of the summer mission which will focus on bringing the family to Christ and on that pastor’s workshop and a mother’s and children’s workshops on the same day. There is a Christian dance and drama team from Chinendega who will help us use drama, song and dance to offer prayer and worship. I found books in my search about prayer on Amazon called “The Power of a Parent’s Prayers and The power of a Husband’s prayers. They come in Spanish and I ordered them already for our summer mission trip workshops. There are still spaces if you feel compelled to share this time with us in Ameya. We will have our usual sharing and work time and explore being the Families of God. Perhaps you might pray about it. .

...”prayer has features in common with all relationships that matter“

Jane Mirandette



It is About God and His Glory

“How do you do that? - How do you carry an elephant on your back???”

Luke 5:8-11

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

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I once heard a proverb about a man who was walking along a path and in the opposite direction he saw a blind man walking very slowly carrying a full grown elephant on his back. As he drew near the first man asked him "How do you do that? - How do you carry an elephant on your back???" The second man replied "Oh this...this is my baby...he is too young to walk this long distance on his own so I am carrying him." Their conversation went on and the first man learned that the second man had been traveling for some time and carrying the elephant since it was a very little baby. That was when the first man told the second man that the elephant had grown to be full sized. The second man was astonished; he had not realized the elephant had grown so much. He now understood why he was struggling so much each day.

*At first I couldn't even tell anyone about it—I was scared...it would go away.*

strength that would come about from accomplishing a task such as this, and flashing forward - imagining what it would be like to remove this burden and see how a body would be changed from carrying such a load. Even though the story didn't say so spiritually I imagine the second man must have learned not to carry his load alone for the entire journey and that he called out to God in times of need.

As many of you know for the last twelve years our family has in a sense been carrying an elephant called Huntington's Disease. Like the man in the Elephant Story we each have grown and become stronger as a result of our load and been challenged to change our perception of who we understood God to be and how He created us to be in relationship with Him.

So how does this story apply to the verse above? Well for me it is Peter's response to Christ when He showed him His provision and revealed who He was in his life. "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" That was my response late last month when we learned that Rob would be receiving a monthly VA benefit, health insurance and life insurance - in a very real sense removing the elephant from our backs and enabling me to cut back to 20 hours a week of working outside the home!

At first I couldn't even tell anyone about it - I was scared and afraid it would go away - but after the fifth trip into the VA office "just to make sure" I realized this was going to be happening regularly. What a revelation - How could this be true - that

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*Sami Peterson*



we would receive such a gift?? So logically my mind turned to how I could justify it. And....nope -I came up short. All I could think of was everything I had ever done that was wrong or less than perfect – so that wasn't the answer. The question persisted - How could this be?? How could we be so fortunate to receive a gift like this? It was the reaction of a dear friend when she said – “Oh Sami, I have been praying so long for you all – what a wonderful answer to my prayers!!” That was it – the gift wasn't about us at all – it is about God and His Glory. So I am writing you all today to share His Glory and Faithfulness as a way of encouraging each of you. He has heard our prayers and answered them abundantly!

But wait the story doesn't stop here.....

You would think I would get that God is faithful after everything we have been through and the many blessing we have received over the last 12 years – but nope I haven't – you see I suffer from S.A.D.D. – Spiritual Attention Deficit Disorder. God teaches me something and I turn around and promptly forget it. So one evening I was checking into one of my favorite websites – Beliefchangers.com and the blog for the day was about Luke 5:8.As I read through the article God started asking me questions and putting pieces together in my mind:

“Tell Me Sami, do you believe that I have been torturing you for the last 12 years?”

“No Lord – you have used Rob's HD to teach me many things. I trust You more now and You have used the circumstances

of my life to cut away unimportant things. I also know You are transforming me into the woman You created me to be.”

“Do you remember when you used to ask Me ‘What did I do to deserve this?’”

“Yes”

“Do you remember what I said?”

“Yes – that I didn't do anything to deserve it and that you use all things for good.”

“Why then would this be any different?”

*Regardless of your  
life's circum-  
stances—God sees  
you.....*

“Well.....when I asked you that question before I was hurting- but this is good, and I haven't done anything to ....oh.... I get it.... I haven't done anything to deserve this... I am just like Paul...a sinful man – this is simply your grace and mercy.” I then started to cry.

*Grace is – not getting what you deserve;*

*Mercy is – getting what you don't deserve.*

So like the verse says at the end – I am going fishing (Rob's dream come true). My lure is encouragement. Regardless of your life's circumstances – God sees you. He hears your prayers and will be faithful. You haven't done anything to “deserve” the circumstances of your life and as you surrender your demands of what you thought your life was supposed to be like and turn to Him – you will be transformed, you learn more about who the living God truly is, and you will fall deeply in love with Him. I know.... you see that's what's happened to me.

# LyonSeeLyonGo Part 1

*We wanted to give our kids a glimpse of God's big, beautiful and culturally diverse world*



Glacier in New Zealand

*Michelle, Kevin, Jacey & Jessup Lyon*



Australia

It all started with a dream. What do we do with some inheritance money from a family cabin sold in Lake Tahoe, CA? Our dream was adventure and experience rather than more “things”. What if... we could take 6 months off of life, work, and school. Could we rent out our house, get someone to watch our dog, home school and GO travel the world? We really wanted to give our kids a glimpse of God's big, beautiful and culturally diverse world. We planned, we dreamed, we prayed. There were many mountains that needed to move in order for this trip to happen. One verse that we were drawn to was Matthew 17:20-21 which says, “if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain MOVE from here to there and it will move. No thing will be impossible for you.”

So, we prayed the mountains to move... of finances, airfare, our dog, our house, our jobs, homeschooling, where to go, etc. God not only MOVED each mountain, but in the moving He poured forth blessings. He gave us “abundantly more than all we had asked or even imagined - to Him be the GLORY!” Ephesians 3:20.

We left January 6th, 2012 for our international leg of our trip and returned home to CO March 31st. But only for a week, for we are off again on our second

leg of traveling the US in a motor home (that will be part 2 for another article).

We picked countries that we had connections with family or friends so we could stay with them. We flew to Kauai, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand and we spent a month in Nicaragua with Jane Mirandette.

We feel extremely blessed and thankful for this opportunity and experience. Not only have we SEEN amazing things, and not only have we HAD experiences of a lifetime, we are changed people. Our family roots have grown deep. We have stories to laugh and cry about for years to come.

We see the end of this trip as only the beginning of another adventure. How we see, what we do, who we are...deeply changed.

Here is an interview with our children. Jacey is 13 and in the 7th grade. Jessup is 8 and in 2nd grade.

## **Did you have a good trip?**

**Jessup:** yes

**Jacey:** yes

## **What were your highlights?**

**Jessup:** beach in Kauai, riding an elephant in Thailand, playing with the Zovaks in Australia, the public transportation (trains) in Sydney, New Zealand = over-

night cruise in Doubtful Sound, ice glacier, riding the luge, swimming with dolphins, meeting a new friend in Nicaragua, swimming lots, and the volcanoes.

**Jacey:** I really liked swimming with dolphins in New Zealand. I also liked the Doubtful Sound cruise, and riding elephants in Thailand. I also like Ameya, Nicaragua. We did so many fun things....it is hard to choose.

**Where do you want to go back?**

**Jessup:** New Zealand to swim with dolphins

**Jacey:** I would go back to New Zealand because it was so beautiful and everyone is so friendly, and all the animals. But I would do it all over again!

**What was your least favorite part of our trip?**

**Jessup:** getting silly putty stuck in my hair

**Jacey:** My low was to see people hungry and to see stray animals on the streets. Also having to say good-bye.

**What have you learned?**

**Jessup:** that Nicaraguans' have metal roofs and garbage bags for walls, it's really hot in Thailand, elephants are gentle animals, courage in swimming with wild dolphins, you don't want to be bit by a New Zealand Sand fly or get stung by a jellyfish, it hurts.

**Jacey:** Well, I learned to express my feelings and I learned that God is literally everywhere. I also learned to surf and I learned more Spanish. The world is full of places that need God and need our help.

**Where did you see God?**

**Jessup:** in the people's hearts and in the Ameya church service

**Jacey:** In Kauai - no rain, beautiful sun and clear blue water. Thailand - for keeping us safe and healthy. Australia - the Zovaks, the Sydney Harbor and the beauty of this country. New Zealand - through colors, animals and people. Nicaragua - I saw God in Ameya, in their church and in their faces. Even though they were hungry and they didn't have much, they were content. I saw God in the many people we met. God kept us safe and healthy. Overall, God directed our steps and showed us what He wanted us to see.

*....God showed up in tangible ways....*

We all have stories of how God showed up in tangible ways, how He touched our hearts, and changed us from the inside out.

For more stories and pictures please visit our travel blog: [www.LyonSeeLyonGo.com](http://www.LyonSeeLyonGo.com)

~ Kevin, Michelle, Jacey & Jessup Lyon



Riding Elephants in Thailand

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*I learned to express my feelings and I learned that God is literally everywhere.*

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Bibleoteca in Nicaragua

# Called Out

My name is Joel and this is my wife Lisa and we have a 4 year old son named Isaiah. We have been here at the Fort Collins ECC for 6 years. This is our story: Boy meets girl. They get married; they have a baby; and they live happily ever after. The End. Right? We dreamed about how many kids we were going to have, how far apart in age they were going to be, and their names- It was the American dream. 2.5 kids, a dog and a white picket fence. Things haven't exactly turned out the way we expected. 2 years ago, we thought it was that time to start trying for our 2<sup>nd</sup> baby. It only took us 2 months and we were overjoyed with the positive pregnancy test, only to find out shortly after that we had miscarried.

Miscarriage is such a difficult thing to go through because you are mourning a life you really never knew. However, God took us both on a beautiful journey of healing and comfort. Since Miscarriages are so common we thought we were going to be able to have another one right away. 2 years later we still have not had that positive pregnancy test. There are so many women that struggle with infertility who haven't been able to have any children of their own, so we know that we are incredibly blessed to at least have one. It actually makes

us more thankful realizing what a miracle Isaiah is. I went through several tests, ultrasounds, hormones, charting and everything always came back as normal. They couldn't figure out what was going on. If you know anyone who has struggled with infertility, it's a vicious cycle every month of getting your hopes up only to be crushed. It's draining, stressful and painful. Miscarriage is hard enough, but infertility after a miscarriage is rough. As much as I felt God's healing through our loss, I felt like I was stuck in the grief because I couldn't move forward. I thought the only way to move on was to have another one to look forward to. I can honestly say it was the darkest time of my life. I was angry. It was hard for me to even go to church, there were so many others getting pregnant around me. I think I counted 13 friends at one point who were pregnant or had newborns. I was in the midst of a faith crisis, doubting His faithfulness and plan for our life. I was mad at God, not understanding

why He would withhold this blessing and desire of my heart. Adding financial struggles, a family crisis, job stress and health issues on top of it...we were in a pit! I sank into a deep depression last fall-not wanting to be around people, having a hard time even talking with God, not wanting to get out of bed. I was completely consumed with my desire. It's crazy to me that Satan can take such a good thing, like wanting to have a baby and tweak it just enough to become a sin. And it was sin I was living in. I was chained up with my desire believing the only way the chains would break was to see a positive pregnancy test. Having a baby became an idol.

But if we rewind a bit to last summer in the midst of this, we felt that we were at a point where we were filling more and more time with church activities and ministry within the church (which is vital and fulfilling), but something was missing. God was nudging us to do more outside of the church. We were also struggling financially and it seemed like every opportunity we were coming across had to do with writing a check. We were frustrated. We wanted to DO something. We were quickly convicted that the whole point of getting fed and sharpened within church is to use it to **GO OUT**.

There is something deep down inside of us that cannot be satisfied until we are pouring out what is getting poured in.

We started praying and it led to a question: "If we had the perspective of being missionaries in Northern Colorado, how would our lives look different?"

That is when Foster care started coming up. We don't even remember exactly where it came from. We had considered adopting before but it wasn't until we heard the shocking statistics of the abused and neglected in our own city that we began looking into Foster Parenting. For example, a 7 year old girl being sold for sex so her parents would have drug money or an infant going through drug withdrawal because her mom was addicted to meth while breastfeeding. Everywhere we turned Foster Care came up- sermons, conversations, even movies. God was breaking our heart for what breaks his.

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*We were quickly convicted that the whole point of getting fed & sharpened within church is to use it to GO OUT.*

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*God took us on both a beautiful journey of healing and comfort*

Joel & Lisa Russell



God really got our attention at the end of last summer when we heard a great sermon that said "Go Out" - say Yes...Both Lisa and I felt a calling that day... But we weren't ready yet. We wanted to move forward, but we were a mess. We wanted a definitive answer on pregnancy and Lisa's depression was getting worse so we interpreted that as God closing doors. But God was teaching us to say Yes. By submitting and drawing closer to His heart we found peace.

So, we started our training after the first of the year (which was a cool story in itself as far as schedules and timing working out). We quickly felt confirmation all over the place. After every class we walked away feeling like this is it! This is what we are called to. It was an actual, practical way to be Jesus' Hands and Feet here in our community; to love the broken, the sick, the poor, the orphans, the outcasts. It wasn't just loving and taking care of these children, who really are the least of these...but it was also being God's light and love to the birthparents. Most of the birthparents come from generation after generation of addiction, abuse or neglect. After the first class, we were driving home and all I could hear was the word REDEMPTION. God redeems all things. He redeems us in all of our pain and heartache. This wasn't about us replacing the baby we lost or couldn't have. We couldn't fathom wanting anything more than another baby, but Jesus beautifully uprooted a deeper desire that has been there our whole life. **His** Desire. **His** Kingdom Purpose for us.

It seemed like the closer we were getting to living out His purpose in our lives, the more joy and peace we felt. With help, I was finally coming out of the fog of depression. God's word was more alive and active than ever, giving me hope and peace as we handed over our desires to Him. As we handed over our desire for another baby, God gloriously assured me one morning that he cared about that desire too.

I was sitting at the table, eating my breakfast and doing my bible study when Isaiah asked me "Mommy, why do you draw in your Bible?" I told him "God speaks to me through the Bible, so I underline the words so that I remember what he told me." He said,

"Well Jesus tells me things in my Bible and I underline the words." I am pretty sure I said something snotty back to him like, "you don't even know how to read" Well, when I was getting ready to put him down for his afternoon I found his children's bible on the floor of his room with an orange crayon sitting next to it. This is what I found.

There was such a burden lifted from my heart that day. Just knowing that God knows. He doesn't take it lightly. He has a deliberate, orchestrated plan for our life. He knows. I was finally able to trust him with that.

Everything seemed to be falling in to place, but during the last week of our classes, I lost my job. We were worried that this would interfere with getting certified. But, sure enough within a couple of weeks I had a better, more consistent job with an incredible schedule, which should work out better with foster care. That is a story in itself, but it is more than we could have asked or imagined.

The week after that happened I had surgery that determined the cause of my infertility. The surgeons were able to take care of it right away. It is a huge praise and relief to finally have an answer.

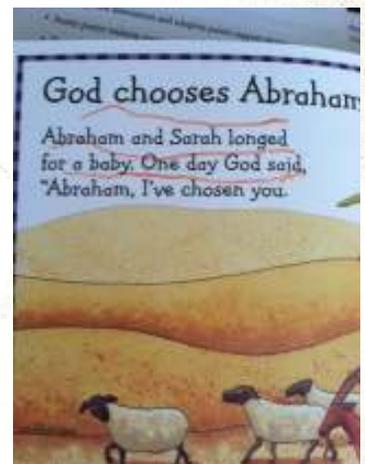
So here we are. We start our home study on Monday and we should get placed in the next 30-60 days We are in the process of learning so much. We wouldn't be going through with foster care if the plans we had for ourselves worked out in our timing. More importantly, we wouldn't know God as intimately as we do now because of everything we have been through. And just like many parents learn to let their kids go when they move out or turn 18, we are learning to surrender Isaiah to God's care. We are learning that God didn't plan for us to be foster parents without thinking about Isaiah. We don't really understand how all these different aspects of a possible pregnancy and foster care are going to mesh and when, but we are learning reverence. Holy Submission to our great God and his deliberate plan for our life. It's a bit like stepping out on water, exciting and scary all at the same time! We are trusting in Him with excited expectation as we say yes and go out.

*God was breaking our heart for what breaks his.*

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*Holy Submission to our great God and his deliberate plan for our life. It's a bit like stepping out on water, exciting and scary all at the same time!*

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Have a reflection or story you'd like to share? Let's start by contacting the office.