

Dear Fellow Laborers: March 2025

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. "I Thessalonians 5:18

Do you ever experience the phenomenon of when you buy a new car and immediately start seeing other cars of the same make and model that you now own? A car you never would have noticed on the road otherwise is now at the forefront of your mind, unintentionally, simply because you're looking for it. Lately, I have been realizing that this is how thankfulness can work. If you start to observe the good around you and thank God for it, that thankful heart can become instinctual, even unintentional.

Thankfulness is the most useful tool I have used on deputation this past year. There are times that I can't see past the moment that I'm in, and I start to think of all the hardships I am not prepared for. In those moments, Derek starts to play the thankful game. We all say one thing we are thankful for and it goes around again. Levi and Theo often say trains, trucks, fish, or trees in the first round. Our van is often mentioned early on, too. Our partnering churches are another thing we say in the thankful game. The people who pray for us are usually mentioned in the third round. This game isn't just things we say that we like, it's a game we use to start to look outside of ourselves and realize God's faithfulness towards us. I am so instinctually selfish that I too often forget that I have a God who loves me and is in control.

I am especially thankful for Levi and Theodore. They have been some of the best travel companions a girl could ask for. The boys, mostly, don't mind a lot of travel. They still nap at least a little of the way and always have a smile for me. They love to pass out prayer cards and to meet other little kids on our "adventures". I love seeing them adapt to new places, talk to people, and just be themselves on deputation.

In the past year, we have been to 78 churches, met hundreds of people, and drove thousands of miles. There are a few hundred thousand new blessings, big and small, I can now use in the next round of the thankful game.

The common theme that I see, if I can put it all down to one cliche saying, is this: God is good. He is good always, in everything - sometimes I just have to look for it.

For Christ,

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