

December 2015

Dear Family and Friends,


We hope this letter finds you well! It looks as though 2016 is shaping up to be our most adventurous year yet! But before I get ahead of myself, allow me to reminisce over this past whirlwind of a year here in Kansas.

Sophia and I completed Kindergarten last spring. It was our first attempt at homeschooling. She is an eager learner (most of the time) and has done fantastic! Things went as smoothly as can be expected with a newborn and 3-year-old running around the house. This fall we started First Grade, and she turned 7 in October. She would tell you that "Handwriting" is her favorite subject. I don't blame her because she can write beautifully! Another highlight so far is that we just completed the 9th book in the Laura Ingalls Wilder "Little House" series. We both loved it and are hoping to plan a field trip to Mansfield, MO to the Historic Home and Museum.

Levi is as boy as a boy can be. He loves to laugh, make loud noises and find sticks to turn into guns. He would tell you that his favorite thing to do is to go camping and eat s'mores. He turned 4 this past September. He loves to pester his big sister, but he loves her so much that he thinks everything she says is funny and wants to always do what she is doing. They can be the worst of enemies and the best of buds all in one breath.

Noelle is our happy girl. She always has a smile to offer and is so much fun. She started walking at about 10 ½ months and hasn't slowed down since. She turned 1 in September. She is doing great with baby sign language and is now starting to add verbal words to her vocabulary. Some of her favorites include "Mama," "ball," and "tetyou" (thank you). She loves tackling Levi on the floor and wearing Sophia's necklaces. Sophia and Levi both love her to pieces and are shaping up to be great older siblings.

Last spring, Trey and I started feeling that God was asking us to open our hearts and minds to something new He might have for us. We set out with our family to attend the 3 SPARK events that were already scheduled, intently listening to what God might have to say. (SPARK is a 3 day/2 night retreat that Trey created for children's leaders 6 years ago. It has now spread to multiple locations.) Upon returning, we continued to pray in earnest and seek the counsel of trusted mentors. One open door led to the next. One "yes" to God led to the next. It became clear to us that we believed God was calling us to resign from Trey's position of Pastor to Children and Families at Central Church of the Nazarene in Lenexa, Kansas, so that we could travel full-time and lead SPARKs as well as be available to equip and encourage local children's leaders all over the US though different venues.



So, we jumped off the deep end of trust! Trusting that God was calling us and leading us, we resigned, sold our home and almost all of our belongings. We were scheduled to speak at 2 church camps and 2 district assemblies last summer. All along the way we spoke at different churches, attended conferences, and also did a few workshops at different children's leader's events. Our summer was packed! Every single time, God provided through his people.

We returned this fall to stay in the basement apartment of a couple that couldn't be more kind and generous. This space is perfect for our family, and there are not words to express how grateful we are for them. This is where we are living now and all the way through March. During this time back in Kansas, Trey has taken a class at Nazarene Theological Seminary called Ministerial Entrepreneurship. God's timing is perfect!! This was the first time it had been offered, and it was EXACTLY what we needed to get our new ministry off the ground in the proper way. Not only that, but we have since launched our new ministry name and website. It is called Equip to Engage and our website is www.equiptoengage.org.

That brings me to 2016! This year truly could be the most exciting and adventurous year we have ever had up to this point. Starting in January we are heading back out to visit Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee before the next round of SPARK retreats start up in February. When we return in March, the plan is to buy a little RV trailer that our minivan can pull and make that our primary home before we start up with another busy summer schedule. We are scheduled to speak at 6 church camps and are attending 2 conferences this summer.

We've so much enjoyed spending time this Advent season remembering and anticipating what this time of year represents: Jesus. We are so thankful for the Hope that he brought all those long years ago and the Hope that we have for the future. He is why we feel called to do what we do.

God is so good. We are excited to step into this unknown territory with the purpose of encouraging, supporting, and coming alongside children's leaders all over the US and hopefully in Canada. We don't have a regular paycheck anymore, we don't have a permanent home anymore, but we are trusting that He who has called us is faithful, and he will do it.

¹ Thessalonians 5:24 - "The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it."

Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Love,

Trey, Candice, Sophia, Levi, and Noelle Brooks