

Growing Families

August 2018

I know every parent goes through it - the day their oldest child leaves the house. When my oldest son Tyler stepped on the plane for college, he took with him eighteen years of the best love, advice (some good, some he should most certainly leave behind), and time that my wife Becky and I could invest. It's such an odd emotion! On the one hand there's devastating sadness at the passing of an era in our family we'll never experience again. But at the same moment, I have this excitement to see what he will do with all that God has given him! After all, this is the goal of parenting. Becky and I have had to remind ourselves of that often over the past few weeks.

So why am I sharing this with you? Sometimes I see God orchestrate two seemingly separate events in my life, putting them together to enable me to see both of them in a way I otherwise wouldn't.



My son Andrew (middle) and I on the plane taking Tyler (right) to college

The day before we took Tyler to school, my sixteen year old son Ross and I were working on a concrete floor with Arturo (Spectrum staff) and the guys to prepare for an upcoming house build. The house is for a young family, and their small property lays nestled in the southern hills of Tijuana.



Little Gael was very serious about helping with the house

Like most families in their neighborhood, they are extremely poor and need to scarp for everything they have. I could tell Emmanuel, the father, was a hard worker as he swung the pick ax, breaking up the ground easily to level it for the foundation. Off to the side stood his wife Jimena, keeping watch over their three young boys who were playing, but also who were very interested in the work. The boys names are Axel, Aostin, and Gael. I couldn't help but be reminded of my three boys when they were little. If they had a newborn baby girl, it would have been exactly the same as us. "What are their ages?", I asked. Six, four and two. Just like mine I thought!

Nostalgia crept in as I remembered the days when my family was young. It had a bit of a sting to it as I contemplated the finality of the follow-



Axel, Austin and Gael enjoying some chips at the work site.

ing day. Then I thought about the house in Michigan where our kids grew up. It was warm and it was safe. It truly was our home. And now God was using Spectrum to provide a home for this young family. A place to sleep safely, eat meals together, laugh together, and grow together! Thank you for allowing God to use you through your prayers and support, to bless this young family! The Bible tells us that Emmanuel means "God with us." Please pray that God would be with Emmanuel and his family and that one day he and Jimena will get to see their boys following Christ and going off to college just like Becky and I get to experience!

Please also pray for our son Tyler! He will be attending Trinity International University (located in the north suburbs of Chicago), on a soccer scholarship. His years of playing on teams in Mexico, as well as San Diego certainly helped make this possible! We're thankful God has brought him to a great place!



This young man went through the line and came out with just what he needed.

School Supply Drive

Speaking of school, the response for school supplies has been overwhelming! Back packs, note books as well as the funds we need to purchase supplies across the border have poured in. We're working at a frenzied pace to get them into the hands of children so they're ready to start school in two weeks! So far we've been able to help over two hundred kids go to school. In the next week we'll help at least two hundred more! I'm so thankful to each of you for helping us walk along side families this way!



We are happy we can help so many kids with school supplies this year!

Update on Yoselin

To date, almost \$4,000 has either come in or been committed for Yoselin's brain surgery (see July's newsletter for the story). Please continue to pray that God will provide the remaining \$6,000!

From all of us at Spectrum,

Matt Kooi
Spectrum Ministries Director

"Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near you.'" - Luke 10:9