

Baldwin News

"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus." 1 Corinthians 1:4

Duty Station 2-3 , Issue 5

Abode:

Military Lingo: Household 6—in the Army, they will use call signs when talking to each other over the radio. A call sign is a “nickname” that both parties in the conversation know and identifies the particular person. 6 is used to designate the commander of a unit while 7 is generally the senior enlisted Soldier. The nickname that Rich (and the army) has give me (Jeanna) is household 6.

“To us, our house was not un-sentient (without the quality or state of having sensation) matter -- it had a heart, and a soul, and eyes to see us with; and approvals and solicitudes and deep sympathies; it was of us, and we were in its confidence, and lived in its grace and in the peace of its benediction.”— Mark Twain

As I was journaling this week, I was lamenting the state of our house and thinking, “Why is this a big deal?” In answer, I thought about the only house that we’ve ever absolutely adored: 10923 Sahler Street Omaha, NE 68164. Here’s why this was such an amazing dwelling for us:



1. It was a **Refuge**: We needed a place to protect us from harm from the elements like hail, wind, rain, extreme temperatures, pests etc.

2. It provided **Security**: Doors, walls, and ownership actively protected us from enemies whose intent was to steal, kill, or destroy; they were disuaded through physical safeguards, combative and proactive engagement, and possession of property (financial security).

3. It provided **Stability**: It had the strength to stand or endure the storms of life, both internal and external. As those storms raged, the house was resistant to change or sudden destruction. It stood firm.

4. It provided **Comfort**: Doing something **in comfort**, means one is physically relaxed and contented, and not feeling pain or other unpleasant sensations. Not only did that house provide an atmosphere of comfort, but the very indwelling of it actively eased grief and trouble, strengthened resolve, provided hope, and encouraged.

5. It provided the opportunity to **Imprint Identity**: Imprint means to impress or place a distinctive marking with the intent to be known. That house created an opportunity for us homeowners to imprint an indelible (Unable to be forgotten; memorable) distinguishing inscription (we left a mark on the walls and in the yard that are still present!) and influence through creativity, production, involvement, rhythms of life, values, beliefs, and relationships (we still cherish our relationship with our neighbors, who are just amazing people!).

6. It provided **an opportunity for Dominion**: Dominion means authority, the exercise of controlling, or sovereignty over a sphere of influence (realm, kingdom, nation, or home). The need for human dominion is exemplified in the heritage of America, “the principle that each individual is a sovereign within his

own right, free to enjoy the blessings of liberty, and free to realize his true potential without interference from church or state.” (<https://fee.org/articles/property-rights-and-the-first-amendment/>). The preamble to the Declaration of Independence states, “*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*” Our house on Sahler street delivered just what our Declaration of Independence professed!

We live in an “already AND not yet reality,” Our earthly havens are imperfect and have the potential to fall apart. In fact, if any one of the previously mentioned factors is inadequate, the home ceases to be a haven. The home also has the potential to house evil! The heavenly correlation, however, is that it also has the potential to give a foretaste of the feast to come! “Logically, Our earthly homes are a foretaste of what the Bible promises, that we’ll live with Christ and each other forever on the New Earth, where God— Father, Son (eternally incarnate), and Holy Spirit—will be at home with his people: (“4 Questions About Heav-

en” by Randy Alcorn March 2015).” Psalm 84:2-4 says, “My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!” When I enter my father’s house, all those dignifying facets of home ownership will be retained and perfected! I’m so excited to truly be home!

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Family News

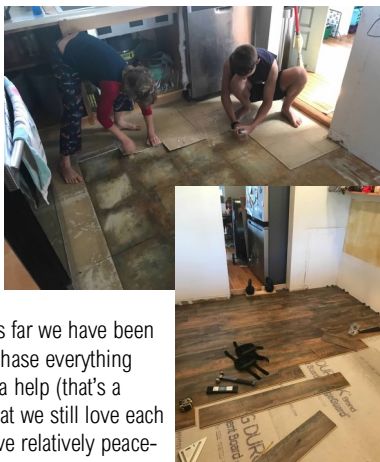
Homeownership (The fixer upper is a slow process!):

1. We've been successful in rewiring almost everything, placing new lighting in every room, and enduring the process (Thank you Rich and Toby)
2. We are continuing to work on replacing the kitchen cabinets. The free cabinets did not fit as we'd hoped; Rich has had to build some, extend some, and manufacture all the doors; Jeanna has been staining and refinishing the new parts.
3. We have found a new sink and installed it.
4. We have a plan for counter-tops...thank you home depot
5. We have purchased flooring for the whole house; the kitchen flooring has been laid.



Praises: Rich knows so much about all this stuff,

for bathtubs and versatility to keep eating home cooked (and cheaper) meals and being able to clean up, that thus far we have been able to purchase everything without extra help (that's a miracle!), that we still love each other and live relatively peacefully together with a house that's not put together, clean, or comfortable.



Pray: That the work will provide financial reward, positive character building for all of us (living like this has the potential to either negatively or positively impact us), and that we will be able to physically and financially press on.

Kids: So many things!



Esther: Junior, just went to mainland for college visits and has a lot to consider, has her ACT in April, Really needs to get her driver's license...but won't until she's 18.

Praise: Thanks to some dear friends, we were able to fly to the mainland, have a place to stay, and have a vehicle to drive to all the colleges!

Samantha: Freshman, desires a close friend to share life with—there's just not a lot of opportunity with online school and being the consummate new kid, is thriving with basketball-Tang Soo Do-drums-surfing



Toby: Continuing to be diligent with 7th grade,



helping and learning a ton about carpentry, electricity, etc. Needs motivation to persevere in Language

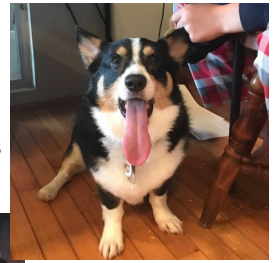
Arts

Tommy: Happy, active, all boy! 5th grade is a difficult jump in work load and brain function...it's been a hard year.

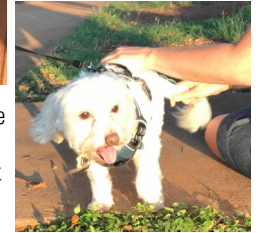


Extras:

We've been busy with Rover.com. To date, we've boarded 13 dogs since November and



we're booked through April, boosting our number to 15. Thus far we've had 2 repeat customers!



And like 7 days off. I have also had at least 30 meet and greets...there's a lot of really amazing people in this world!

The Nannying has been great as well! Since my girls are the babysitters for this sweet family as well, I have some freedom to do meet and greets and get kids to various activities. Sadly (for us), this family is getting ready to PCS (permanent change of station) to Virginia in June. We'll miss these sweet boys!



Praise: These 2 side jobs have been really good for the family and have provided a little extra income. Praise that our health has been good and improving!

Pray: Pray for the family I'm nannying for; this has been a tough duty station and they are in the process of selling a house, packing up, and ending well. Also, once again in June, I'll be figuring out what's next. An MBA is still on the table or another part time job. Please pray for wisdom and opportunity!

Ministry Highlights:

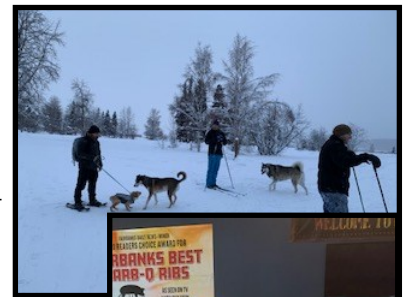
1. In December the Unit Ministry Team hosted a Holiday Door decoration contest. Rich and family created a life size operation game. The UMT won the contest as judged by the Battalion Commander and the First Sergeant. It was a great time, built esprit de corps, and gave everyone an opportunity to express their creative side while getting into a festive spirit.



2. In January, the Youth of the Chapel did a service project at a homeless mission. There were about 10 family units approximately 50 people that came to help with the project. Our activities included gardening and building houses. The houses are 8x8 with two windows, a door and a mono-slope roof. They are pretty simple by middle class standards, but they protect from weather and the people at the mission are incredibly grateful. All the kids got to apply their newly acquired carpentry skills.



3. Rich had the opportunity to travel to Alaska the first week in February. He was in Fairbanks at Fort Wainwright and in Anchorage at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER). With some of his Agents he went snow shoeing and cross country skiing. With another group he did a resiliency breakfast.



good buddy ice fishing.



4. Rich's counseling load has increased substantially with his Soldiers in Hawaii. As the transformation of CID continues the stressors of life continue to pile up for folks. Many of the counselings he has deal with a felt lack of purpose. It is not surprising that so many are struggling with this, especially when we recognize that purpose is the fourth link in the chain of worldview. Preceding purpose are morality, meaning and identity. Without a solid sense of identity it is difficult to determine meaning and without meaning morality cannot be developed. And when there is no absolute morality to follow, a felt sense of purposelessness manifests itself.

5. In general the spiritual climate of Hawaii is an interesting smorgasbord consisting of everything from local island religion (heavy Polynesian influence), to Shinto and Daoism (Japanese and Chinese influence), Christianity, post-Christian views, and a very healthy LDS influence. Additionally, the politics are fairly progressive which introduces this new "politically correct woke religion" into the mix as well. Needless to say, it is generally a very dark place spiritually. The longer we are here the more we come to realize how much of Christianity's influence we take for granted. That said, it is a privilege to walk with the local people here and be a true light for the gospel. Please pray that the Lord would grip the heart of the islanders and call many people to himself. Pray also for us as we experience a weird sort of time dilation where every month feels like two. We suspect this has much to do with the spiritual climate.



It was a treat to see y'all whether you visited us or we visited you during these last 4 months! Here's some picture highlights!



Jeanna's sis and fam visit for a week



Esther and Sarah at Concordia HS BB game



Zion ladies treated us at UNL



Rich's whole fam visited for 2 weeks!



Our Favorite NE neighbors!



Trost Family Sunday Dinner!



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Mahalo (Thank you) all for your patience in waiting for this newsletter! And Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers for us. We covet it all and we are definitely being carried through because of you.

