

February 2022

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 1

Providence:

"There is no such thing as a great man of God, only weak, pitiful, faithless men of a great and merciful God." Paul David Washer

"Traditional theism holds that God is the creator of heaven and earth, and that all that occurs in the universe takes place under Divine Providence—that is, under God's sovereign guidance and control. According to believers, God governs creation as a loving father, working all things for good." — Plato.stanford.edu

Way back in November, I began our next newsletter on providence...and then, PROVIDENTIALLY, we experienced many questionable incidents that made us query if what we are doing is valuable and worthwhile; if we are even "called" into this military ministry. On this side of things, the answer is YES! But, we realize that it will never be an easy journey; Satan does NOT want Jesus in this world.. As we press on, we find ourselves processing, growing, grieving,

laughing, adjusting, and praying over all of it!

When things go well (getting exactly what is prayed for what is wanted), it's so easy to be comfortable and thank God for his many blessings. It also leads to the thinking that all "good" things come in this package of fulfilling selfish desire. Ironically, prayers are rarely answered with the means for easy street.

In the article, *Don't Underestimate the Doctrine of Providence* by Stephen Witmer, he highlights the human understanding of God's version of "good."

"We're prone, when confronted with spiteful and malicious human enemies, to forget God is ultimately behind what's happening to us. Perhaps we give lip service to the truth of his providence, but most of

our emotions and responses are directed toward the human agents. After all, they're more immediately present to our senses."

Witmer goes on to say, "God's loving help in unexpected ways, through unexpected people—perhaps through unexpected suffering and hardship—opens our eyes to see the loving activity of his hand in every circumstance. We're watching for that fatherly hand."

Our (Baldwin) human reaction over the last 3 months led us to feel angry at and deserted by our Father. Finite minds cannot fathom the intricacies of God's goodness. Despite the circumstance, the truth is that God is in control and He is for us, especially when he puts us through the hard stuff!



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Goodbye Fort Leonard Wood, MO

Our final days in Fort Leonard Wood were both encouraging and discouraging. Our housing situation, unfortunately, became worse with the closing off of the duct-work; moisture and mold increased in the house making it unlivable for us. Fortunately, some of our friends offered us their RV to "live in" while we

cleaned up our house to get ready for moving. AND, Rich's command staff expedited his release from his duties. We are SO THANKFUL for the people who made this happen! We are also SO ANGRY at the housing contracting company for placing us in an unfit residence and the business that has followed.

Please Pray:

Thank you for the community that had our backs

Against the evil that made MO so difficult to live in

For all of us to return to health—physically, mentally, and spiritually



Travel Bump

We did it! We had everything arranged so we could hit the road early! Two members of Rich's command agreed to help with the household goods and check out.; one would manage the packing of the goods and the other would do the final walk through and sign the paperwork. Two of Jeanna's friends agreed to clean the floors! We had our two vehicles (one new to us) packed to the hilt, the purple peeler (our previous van) was now resting in a junkyard, and new tires were on all our vehicles, plus our new trailer (also with new tires). The walls, appliances, bathrooms, and cabinets were all deep cleaned...Thanks to some hard working kids and mom! Rich got through all his out-processing in record time! What a

maze of paperwork! First stop: Paduka, KY!

2 hours later: we find ourselves on the side of the freeway, not yet out of MO, with an exploded trailer tire in shreds! After about an hour of troubleshooting, we determine to leave the trailer (with all of its contents) on the side of the road, after contacting highway patrol of course.

New plan: Stay in Poplar Bluff, MO for 2 days, find a shop to get a new tire, hope that no one steals anything from our trailer. replace tire, and retrieve trailer.

Please Pray: That Firestone would take ownership of a bad tire and against Continued Spiritual Warfare. Evil is real and needs to be prayed against!



Home Sweet Home?



After Rich received his orders for SC, we knew we needed to get a place to live. We were forewarned NEVER to sign a lease sight unseen....but we trusted the property owner and he trusted his property manager, so we did it anyway. Uh oh!

Once the tire was repaired, travel was smooth sailing! After a sweet stop in Chattanooga, we wanted to get to Columbia to begin our residency! But, soon after leaving TN, we received a phone call from the property manager. The tenant had not vacated the property. We checked into a hotel...Then extended our stay for 9 more days. During this stay we received a second phone call informing us that the tenant was a hoarder...we're talking floor to ceiling stuff! When he finally did vacate, the required cleaning was extensive! By December 17, Rich received permission to take the family to MN. One of Jeanna's dearest friend's allowed us to park our jeep and trailer at their house. One van plus 6 was a dream! Christmas visits in Ohio and Minnesota were wonderful! A third phone call promised us the house would be

ready by Christmas Eve! What a great Christmas Present! We arrived at 11 pm, opened the door, stepped over a cockroach, and were nailed with a blast of stale air that smelled of dog feces, cigarette smoke, and ????? Not such a good Christmas gift after all. Back to the hotel we go. Nothing could be solved on Christmas. It turns out, though, that we didn't need the perfect Christmas. We had what we needed and got to celebrate anyway (with McDonald's Big Macs, Monk, and Worship).

Please Pray: Thanksgiving for friends and family

That Evil would be thwarted. Satan doesn't want Jesus in this world!

That we would be able to discern if/when/how to convict and forgive

Facebook Saves the Day

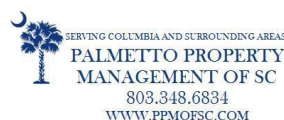
Facebook?!?! Yes, desperate times call for desperate measures! Upon the advice of a friend, Jeanna joined the *Fort Jackson Spouses* facebook group. After reaching out to that group, a realtor, who works with military, was recommended to us. We then reached out to that realtor...And received an immediate response (SO GLAD she was working on Christmas Eve!) She "just happened" to have one property in our price range. We did a walk

through on the 26th, signed the lease (not sight unseen!), and received our household Goods on the 27th. Our real Home Sweet Home! The address is:

206 Curvewood Rd.

Columbia, SC 29229

Please Pray: Thanksgiving for facebook and a clean home!



Highlights:

Read the captions and let the pictures tell the stories



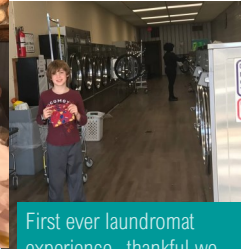
Rich's Goodbye ceremony. The 701st MP BN honored him well.



6 Baldwins + hotel for many days



Enjoying some Southern coastal food! First ever seafood boil!



First ever laundromat experience...thankful we could have clean clothes



A little worse for the wear at Christmas, but still mostly smiling...



In early January Rich was able to fly to MO to take part in the leadership of the Governor's Breakfast



We found the Atlantic!

SC is filled with history! We've been able to visit Charleston and 2 battlefields.



It actually snowed here! The last snow on record was 2010.



We're as unpacked as we'll be here and things are back to normal.

Life in SC

- * Rich was able to refresh by going on a cruise with his good friends. A necessary reprieve.
- * Rich is in class at the school house 5 days a week, plus nightly homework, plus meeting fellow chaplains.
- * We have found a wonderful church, Northeast Presbyterian, that has totally loved on us through the gospel, amazing people, a wonderful military presence, a great youth program, a woman's program, and a men's group.
- * Jeanna has found a 15 hour a week (perfect!) job with the Mom's Morning Out program.
- * Getting out of the Fort Leonard Wood house has caused a great improvement in Jeanna's health!
- * The kids continue with Liberty University Online Academy
- * Esther is receiving wonderful violin instruction through Columbia's Suzuki institute and is continuing with her Jiu Jitsu at a local gym
- * Samantha is developing her drumming and piano at this clever local "School of Rock" and is also continuing with her Jiu Jitsu.
- * Toby is working through an "eye therapy" program and has turned a corner with school! He is working so hard, and now it's SO much easier for him!
- * Tommy began guitar lessons at this "School of Rock" and LOVES it!

Please Pray:

1. Thanksgiving for arriving and being able to settle in
2. Against evil; one aspect we discovered through this mess is that God is a warrior. Evil is in this world and we, as Christians, need to arm ourselves in prayer against it. God's vengeance is real...it's part of His goodness
3. That we would stay the course in holding the housing contractors accountable in MO and that God would convict.
4. Pray for our safety these next 5 months. Our neighborhood is a dangerous place! We've had shootings, daily police activity, vandalism (Jeanna even had to call 911 to report some), drug dogs up and down our street, and we found out the walking trail behind our house is nicknamed the 'GANGway.'



This is my command—
Be strong and courageous!

DO NOT BE AFRAID

OR DISCOURAGED

For the Lord your God
is with you
wherever you go.”
Joshua 1:9



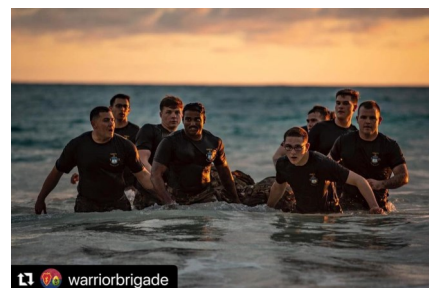
Heaven
not
Harvard



Request for Orders (RFO)

WE'RE HEADED TO OAHU, HAWAII!

To be honest, the possibility of this assignment wasn't even on our radar. We are in shock! Minus a passport and a couple of other details, this is like a move overseas and we have A LOT to decide and A LOT to do! We'd love your prayers over anything you can think of regarding this move!



Schofield Barracks is an army base in Hawaii, one of the 11 total military bases in Hawaii and home to 25th Infantry Division. Established October 1, 1941, the 25th Infantry division was formed

Rich will be working with the 2-35 Infantry Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team



from the 27th and 35th Infantry who played a key role in defending Hawaii from 1921-1941. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor

and Oahu Military Bases, the 25th Infantry Division was called to action in the Solomon Islands in November 1942 and given the nickname, "Tropic Lightning," in response to their performance in the Solomon Islands.

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