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IT'S ALL NORMAL...

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JAMES 1:2-4

"CONSIDER IT ALL JOY, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER VARIOUS TRIALS. KNOWING THAT THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH PRODUCES ENDURANCE. AND LET ENDURANCE HAVE ITS PERFECT RESULT, SO THAT YOU MAY BE PERFECT AND COMPLETE, LACKING IN NOTHING".

ITS ALL NORMAL...

I have been hearing this a lot these past few months and have been asking myself.....Why is it all normal? When you move to a new place, wherever you are in the world, there is always a time of transition. You have the usual things like figuring out your new house/apartment, the neighborhood and your new neighbors, finding the best place to grocery shop and places to do business. Along with all the excitement and eagerness to learn and start living in your new world, when you move to a different country, a few other things happen as well. There are feelings of isolation in a culture where you feel that you don't belong, frustration with the way things are done or not done. There is also confusion as to why people misunderstand you and doubt as to how it's all going to work out. But God knows what is happening. That is the point...to turn to Him and lean on Him for the strength, wisdom and courage that is needed to make sense of it all.



Christmas caroling



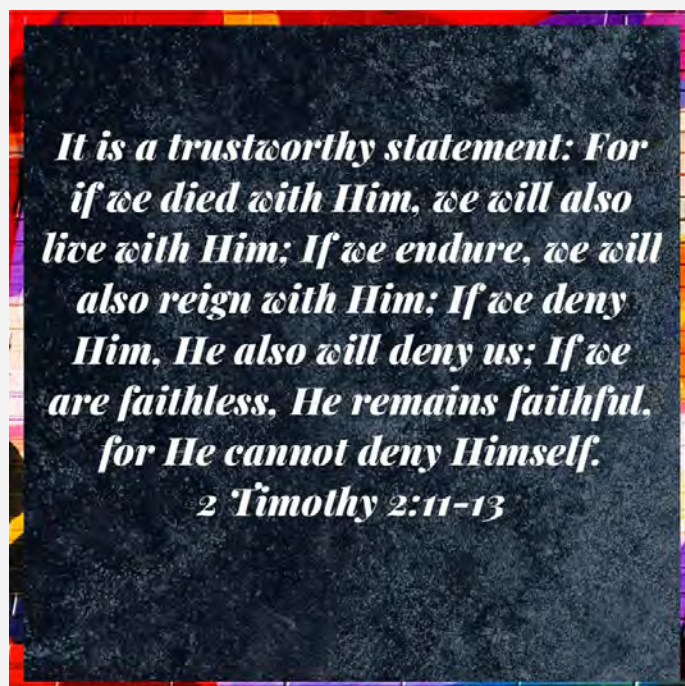
I spent some time in Kisumu over the holidays. As I reconnected with friends who are more like family I was reminded of Gods faithfulness

In the hopes of painting a beautiful and true picture of what my transition has been like...I want to share with you why I have been asking myself this question. When we walk this life with Jesus, He is going to allow things to happen that help us to grow in our faith and reliance on Him. Sometimes it's going to be hard and it's going to hurt...and it's normal. Sometimes we are not going to know what is happening and sometimes nothing will work out the way we planned...and it's normal. That's why everyone keeps saying, "everything that is happening is normal". But I have questioned it because it doesn't feel normal. Because I thought I had a clear plan as to what to do and how to do things, but God always knows better. Now that doesn't mean that I heard the Lord wrong or followed the wrong path...it means that I made a plan and the Lord is directing it. It means that I'm trusting the Lord when some things don't work out the way I thought they would. It means that I'm giving up control and that is why it doesn't feel normal. We must learn, as we walk with Jesus, that no matter where we are or what we are doing, it's our relationship with Him that gives us direction, purpose and a clear path as to what we are doing. And we have to be willing to allow the things that don't feel normal to lead us to a deeper relationship with Jesus.



God wastes nothing. He is going to use everything in our lives to draw us closer to Himself. I wouldn't want it any other way.

However, we have to give ourselves time. Time to pray and to ask questions if we need to. Time to rest in the truth of God's Word and the promises that will never change no matter what is happening. Time to give ourselves some grace when we believe that our best was not good enough. It's normal to ask questions and to not understand what is happening. It's normal to be scared or to wonder how it's all going to work out.....but it's not normal to dwell there. We need to turn to Jesus and allow Him to help us understand what is happening. We must cling to Jesus when it seems everything is not working out the way we planned....Because it will be within that relationship that we will be able to continue. One day, one second and one step at a time....even when everything is "normal".





Technology has made staying in touch so much easier and I'm so grateful for that. Unfortunately that same technology has not made things easier like we had all hoped it would with applying for paperwork. With COVID making everything a lot harder than it was before, I'm still waiting on my work permit renewal. This process has been very confusing, stressful, lonely at times and very challenging for me.

I found out there was a mistake on the application when I submitted it, that's what was holding it up. Praise the Lord I was able to go down to the immigration office and they corrected it for me. It should now move to the final stages and now we wait for approval.

Thank you so very much for your faithful prayers and encouragement. They have all been heard and felt. I am truly blessed by you. Please let me know how you are doing, I would love to hear from you.

Because of His Grace

Blessings

LeAnn <><

PRAISES

- God's grace & faithfulness
- God's perfect timing
- God's protection
- Passport renewal
- Spiritual growth
- New friends and connections
- Health

PRAYER

- Work permit approval
- Continued language learning
- The Lord's wisdom & leading
- To be moldable & teachable
- Opportunities to share Jesus