

# ***The McRae Chronicle***

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## **Love & Loss**

We were so excited to share with you last time about our expected addition, with a baby due in December. We now are proportionately saddened to share that our son did not survive to birth. During our trip to Michigan, Kara went to the emergency room, where the doctors confirmed that, while everything seemed to be working as it should be, our baby was inexplicably dying. On July 17, he passed away. We named him Asher, because of the happiness he brought to our family during his short life and the blessing that he is. Asher is also our eighth child, and named after the eighth son of Israel.

This has been nothing short of devastating, but even through that, God provided wonderful nurses, friends and family, encouraging calls from home, and so much more. He continues to teach us and sustain us as we walk through another layer of grief. Please pray for each of us, including the children, as we travel together through another loss, and as we help them navigate all that that entails. We are learning again the importance of taking time for grief. There are some moments when we just have to cry together.

In addition to the support we received in Michigan, we were carried along by our home church, including many calls and texts while we were away. Upon reaching home, we were overwhelmed with the sympathy and comfort of God's people. We truly have a family here, and we love and value them so much. They came around us in so many ways, holding us and crying with us, providing some meals, and we have had so many gifts and cards. After we unpacked, we spent some time reading through the cards left for us, crying at the thoughtfulness of the notes and meaningful gifts. Whether a necklace or plaque engraved with Asher's name, or a small LEGO creation from a child, we have received so much love from God's people. Praise the Lord for a church that practices Roman 12:15 so well!

Joy and grief are often viewed as conflicting, but as much as they differ, they throw each other into contrast in a way that causes us to appreciate both better. Asher was a bright spot in an already hard year. The joy we had because of his life is wonderful and deep. His death has been surrounded with so much love that we see goodness and joy throughout it, even as we acknowledge the depth of the grief it caused. We are so glad that we have been able to share both the joy and the grief with people that love us.

## **Please Pray with Us!**

- Praise God for providing a vehicle!
- Praise God for surrounding us with a loving Christian family!
- Please continue to pray for us as we grieve the loss of parents and children.
- Pray for us in our roles at TBM.
- Pray for God's provision for our trip to South America.

## **New Vehicle**

Thank you so much for your prayers regarding our unreliable vehicles. In August, God led and provided a four-wheel drive SUV that will seat all of us, plus groceries. It is sturdy enough to handle the roads to our house, so we are able to go from home to town and back without making multiple trips now! God is so good to provide for us!

## **South American Conference**

At TBM, the South American Field Conference is quickly approaching. This will take place from October 21-23, plus there will be field visits before and after. This is a time for our missionaries in South America to gather together and be encouraged, even as they encourage one another. There will be messages from scripture, field reports, and times of fellowship together. Nathaniel has been very involved in planning this conference. Please pray that it will be effective in serving those on the field.

Kara and I will be attending the conference, and then visiting our missionaries in Trinidad afterward. While in Trinidad, Nathaniel will be sharing with some of the leadership in the church, and Kara will be speaking at a ladies gathering with the church there. We will also enjoy just getting to spend time with the missionaries in their home country and church. Pray for our time there, that we will serve them well. Please pray also that we will see God's provision for our trip.

## **Family News**

August is birthday month again, and Ariana celebrated her 16<sup>th</sup> with a trip to a roller skating rink with friends. It is exciting to see her growing in her pursuit of who God wants her to be. Juliana turned 17, which brings a new stage of "lasts," as she prepares for finishing her schooling at home in the next year.

Speaking of school, it has started up again, and the children are studying various subjects, according to their age and interests. Conversations about math, science, history, and music are becoming part of a routine again, even when they don't come up in other ways.

Some church ministries are resuming, as we kick off a new year of AWANA and Sunday School. We are thrilled to be involved in our church, and praying about in what we should be involved. Pray for wisdom for us, as there are more opportunities than we should fill, and we find ourselves excited about so many of them.



Throughout our lives, God has always provided exactly what we need materially and situationally, despite if we realize it or not. Sometimes, it is in retrospect that we recognize His gracious provision. We have shared some hard things with you, but we do not want to neglect the greatness and goodness of God through all of it. God has continued to provide exactly the finances we need, despite there being so many extra bills lately.

While our trip to Michigan was very different than we planned or imagined, it was very good to see as many of you as we did. Thank you so much for your flexibility as we adjusted our schedule and did not make as many visits as originally planned. God used the time meeting with friends and family, and it was an encouragement to us.

We know God will always do what is right. We have seen it. Please pray for us as we continue to grow in trusting Him.

Serving with you,

Nathaniel, Kara,  
Juliana, Ariana, Cassandra, and Grant M<sup>c</sup>Rae



### **Contact Info**

We would love to hear how you are doing and what the Lord has been doing in your lives.

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For more information about our mission and project or to read past newsletters, visit:  
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