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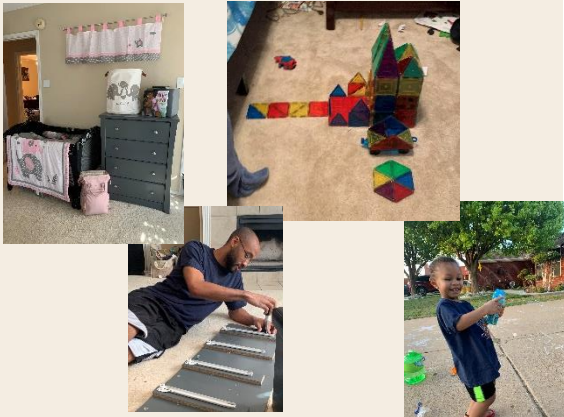
Issue
Mar
2020



A Monthly Insight to the Gilkey's Journey in Lubbock, TX

Moved on FAITH

Activities...



We haven't had much activity the month of March since we have had stay at home orders here in Lubbock, TX as well. Many events have had to be cancelled or moved online like the rest of the world.

However, we have been blessed by so many online opportunities to meet with people. We were blessed with an awesome virtual babyshower thanks to some wonderful ladies from Riverwalk Church of Christ. We've never done a Facebook live before or a zoom meeting and would have never thought to do something like that. We are so appreciative and are so thankful for all of our amazing family and friends who participated.

We have been invited to Zoom Bible studies and prayer groups by various friends and family and it has been such an added blessing. I hope that even when things begin to shift where we can be in bigger groups and all gather again, that we will still remember the benefits that resulted in having to adapt to using resources outside of the church building. It has been a wonderful reminder to truly see the Church in action outside of the building walls.

Changes This Term

Term Four...

We ended last month ending term three and ready for our two week break from school. Of course, one of those weeks was designated for those able to go on their campaign (mission) trips. We chose not to go on one due to the spread of illness and just because we are getting closer to our due date and thought it was best not to take any chances under the present circumstances.

As most of the world and the United States has been highly effected by the COVID-19 illness, we have been as well. Thankfully, our tech team at Sunset International Bible Institute and our instructors have moved all of our learning remotely. We have been using Adobe Connect in order to see video of our instructors and classmates while our instructors teach and share the material. It's not the same as being in person and seeing one another, but we are adapting to this new way of learning with our classmates and instructors. Please be in prayer for our Level 2 classmates (Seniors) who are in their last term of classes. The school has made the decision to postpone graduation to August and unfortunately there are some celebratory events that had to be cancelled completely. A few of our classmates have arranged to travel back to their hometowns and continue learning from there.



C.j. & Alaina's Classes

For Term 4:

C.J. is taking-

- *Preaching Lab
- *Evangelism II
- *The New Testament Church
- *Biblical Theology of Missions

Alaina is taking-

- *Sign Language (ASL)
- *Public Speaking 4

Both of us are taking-

- *1st Corinthians
- *Thessalonians/Philippians

SIBI Level 1 Class of 2019



Term Four Update

We are already three weeks into the term and midterms are next week. Following midterm week is our Research Week. We are looking forward to having some "extra" time to complete assignments.

S.I.B.I. Upcoming Events...

All events have been cancelled due to COVID-19. However, senior sermons will still be streamed through the SIBI website. They also post Daily Devotionals that you can find on Facebook, their YouTube channel, or their website. They are not the same as being at chapel every morning with everyone, but they have still been encouraging and uplifting. I encourage you to check out the website to see if there are any resources you might be interested in. <http://sibi.cc/>

All About the Boys

We have had lots of time at home and outside with the boys over the last few weeks. We didn't get to go on any of the family outings we had planned because they were at public places. We have been taking extra measures for a little over a month now. We decided to do so, even prior to any known COVID-19 cases in Lubbock to keep everyone healthy since we will be bringing a new baby into the home. Instead, we have enjoyed walks, bike riding, games, reading together, and doing various art projects. Our house loves playing rounds of Uno. Christopher believes that he is the Uno champ. Though, Jon isn't too bad at the game himself. There have been a couple of times he almost beat us! Jon has really struggled not being able to see his friends and teachers at S.I.B.I. Daycare as well as our classmates and instructors. We have had a few days of tears with Jon because he wants to go and see everyone at school. S.I.B.I. are Jon's people too. In the meantime, we have been making due with FaceTime calls and the boys often pop in on our Adobe Classroom meetings to get their hellos from everyone ☺



A Story of Praise...

In the midst of all the chaos, the students at S.I.B.I. have been under some extra stress trying to adapt these changes just like the rest of the world. We have not been exempt from these stressors either. Like everyone else we have struggled with having stable connection to the internet, struggled with looking at a computer screen all day, and struggled with having children in our presence while still attempting to pay attention to our instructors while they are teaching us. We have been attempting to "homeschool" Christopher and entertain Jon and the struggle has been real, all the while getting everything prepared for a new baby in the house.

However, having the opportunity to sit down with Christopher and monitor his school work and testing has been a HUGE blessing. As most of you know Christopher is hard of hearing and wears hearing aids. This means that a lot of times in educational settings or settings that involve lots of people and noise that Christopher needs extra assistance and resources to be provided for him in order for him to learn and hear the things necessary. When we moved to Lubbock his school kept telling me that Christopher is super behind on reading and that his level was closer to that of a Pre-K kid. This didn't sit well with us because prior to our move Christopher was not behind like that and there was no indication that he was behind enough to be held back. Here, it was like he had lost his educational abilities, but that just didn't seem possible with the skills we were examining at home.

Last week, I (Alaina) was able to sit down with Christopher and monitor him while he did his monthly reading test on the computer. I discovered he was struggling understanding and hearing the computerized voice. I started repeating everything the computer said and I noticed the difference in Christopher's answers and in his confidence in taking this assessment. Needless to say, in a program that only has 5 levels, his teacher did a Google Meets call with us, to inform and celebrate that Christopher went from a Level 1 to a Level 4! There were many tears of joy and excitement. Even though, these adjustments have been challenging, there has been so much joy in the midst of it all.

Note of Encouragement...

In my Public Speaking 4 class our assignment is to pick a topic to do a 20 minute lesson on. I am the kind of person that likes to have limited choices because if it is left open, I often don't know what to decide on. However, my younger cousin helped make it easier for me this time around, though she didn't even know it. She was given an assignment to interview and write about someone and their journey in trusting God and having joy in the midst of trials and suffering and she chose me. I did not really feel all that worthy of being the person she chose, but one thing I have been learning during my time here, is that we should accept when someone sees the light of Christ in us and give Him glory for it. After all, that is what we should do, live our lives for Christ where others see light in us, so that we can then shine that light right back to the source, God. People should be able to see Him in and through us. So she inspired me to make my lesson topic "Joy in the midst of suffering." I encourage you all to be content in whatever circumstance you may find yourself in. Happiness depends on circumstances, but joy is found by knowing who your hope is in. Not to say things will be easy, because they won't be, easy was never promised. I don't think it was easy for Paul and Silas to sit in prison (Acts 16:16-40), yet they still had reason to sing behind those bars. Their reason? They had and knew the Savior. They knew their end, their ultimate destination. God sent His son so that we could be reconciled with Him and live eternally in His presence. That is where you find joy.

-Alaina Gilkey

Most Importantly....

Many support us and we do not know or have their names and there those who's names we do have. Then there are some that we don't even have contact information for and our prayer is that you are able to see our newsletters and updates, or that you might see us on facebook so that you can get a glimpse into our lives. However, we wanted you ALL to know that we consider you all our family. You have provided support and encouragement in ways that are unimaginable and truly a thank you just never seems like it is enough. We wanted to let you know that we love each and every one of you. Please if you ever need a prayer, encouraging word, or anything, don't ever hesitate to reach out to us.

Contact us at **316-207-7943**

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"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13 NASB



Consider it all joy, my brethren, 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.


James 1:2-4 NASB



The Gilkey
Chronicles

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Layout Modified By: Alaina Gilkey

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