



Wandering Woodrings

JOSHUA JANUARY

Happy New Year from the Wanderers and Hebron Oaks. In this new year, we are going to have our newsletters title alliterate with Biblical Characters as our monthly title and focus. Thus we present Joshua January. I, Craig, have always felt affinity to Joshua, I like his courage, his focus on serving, and his faith. We are introduced to him as a younger man, going to the promised land with Caleb and other spies sent out to scout the land. We see him express faith when others express fear about the Giants in the promised land. He steps up to serve Moses, and sees the miracles of God's presence. Ultimately he moves into leading the Israelites into the promised land through battle and intercession. Finally, he expresses his faith in boldly proclaiming his House will serve the Lord. A wonderful character study of servant leadership. May we all have the faith, courage, servant-heartedness and boldness of Joshua in our daily lives. On to the many big news items

As we hinted in the December prayer requests, we are in a new year and a new season. We actually made TWO major decisions in December. The first one we told you about. We are switching to a bi-monthly newsletter (6 letters a year instead of 12). That felt like a big decision after so many years of a monthly letter. It also feels like a bit of a relief to us, and possibly to you! The monthly prayer requests will continue!

Our 2nd decision is More Momentous...

After months of prayer and seeking counsel, we officially left YWAM in December to start our own ministry, Hebron Oaks Member Care. We will provide member care for cross-cultural workers, whether in our old organization, YWAM, or other missions organizations. We have become a registered non-profit corporation, have a board, and financial processing in place already. God is having us do a new thing! See Isaiah 43:18-19

We didn't start from the position of wanting to leave. We eventually came to understand this route would be best for those we serve. Around December 1, we determined that it would be most appropriate at this time to become people on the outside of the issues, so we can provide a more impartial listening ear and hopefully solid Biblical wisdom drawn from our lives. We are walking with people in various organizations who have tricky issues and there is great freedom in being the caring worker who helps them seek God's way through the challenges. Being our own organization positions us as impartial outsiders who understand how a lot of different organizations function. In the past year we have served folks in several countries with many missions. This has been very fruitful, and seems to serve the more global body. We felt our season to be in the YWAM structure was at an end though we hope to continue to serve many YWAMmers. We are not rejecting the organization,

but recognizing that how we are currently called to serve will be better done from alongside than inside.

Thirty-two years ago, we were just joining YWAM. Over those years we have worked in many places, roles, and projects with teaching many subjects, helping others to plan and to start multiple types of ministries from intensive courses to non-profit ministries (and one never-ending book project...remember that?). We also worked with Engineering Ministries International to start their first international office, Lifewater International to start their first office with full-time workers on support, FIRE to help them launch community development in India, and the NCF in Nepal to help initiate a business as mission program. Craig was part of starting and running another small ministry that did work mostly in South Asia. We have lived intense segments of time in India, Malaysia, Nepal, Kenya, South Korea and multiple states in the US. We have served for 1 week to 3 months in about 20 nations. All of this diverse experience helps us to debrief with empathy, coach with creativity and mentor with experience. Needless to say, this is a big transition. Pray for us as we go into 'the new thing—the new promised land across our Jordan.

[A detail for those interested in the practical side, our support structures will stay they same. We always put that information at the bottom of the prayer request page for those who are trying to find it. Our current contact information is always down there, too.]

But there is yet more big news....

On the family side, we have had a big challenge. Jen's mom, Mickie, fell on January 2nd on her right arm and broke the humerus near the shoulder. Humerus... not humerous... Not funny! The ER could not control her pain so they admitted her to the hospital. Two days later the pain subsided. Then, we noticed that her right leg was dragging. Subsequent imaging revealed that she had suffered a small stroke. Between an uncooperative right leg and a broken right arm she has ended up temporarily in a skilled nursing facility where she has nurses awake 24 hours a day to help with needs and physical therapists who work with her every week day. She is almost an hour from us but close to Jen's brother, Greg. We are coordinating visits so she has some company and some help from us each day. We all have a lot to learn before she can come home and we step into home care.

In the meantime, it feels busy just working with doctors, nurses, insurance, etc. Because of this, we have decided that Jen will take family leave for at least a quarter. Hopefully by then the arm will be healed and Mickie will back closer to normal. Pray for our ability to manage the new norm.

Taking deep breath as we dive in,

Jen and Craig

PS: One more. Craig heads to the Himalayas in Mid-March... We may need to do a February letter!



When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and
 when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.
 When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;
 the flames will not set you ablaze.

Isaiah 43:2 NIV

Left: Where Craig will be going in March. (photo from a friend in the Himalayas)
 Front banner photo: Our view of the sierras to the south on a clear winter day recently.

January Prayer n Praise: Many of our prayer requests this month are more generic, about people I think are on the heart of God because our tasks focus on 'boring' administrative and family needs. Thank you for praising and praying with us for:

- 15 - us to serve in helpful ways for the people we meet with for coaching/mentoring (Jen will continue with a few, too).
- 16 - God to continue to oversee our schedule. Amazingly, this is such a crazy time but it is working out.
- 17 - getting rest when we can/working hard when it is the right time.
- 18 - thankful that Jen's feet finally don't hurt; now to recover the fitness she has lost!**
- 19 - Debriefing Book Club: Jen's wisdom on how to stay involved over the next quarter.
- 20 - wisdom for helping Jen's mom with her new situations.
- 21 - Jen's mom to have enough energy and oomph to do PT and recover a good measure of daily independence. The arm plus the stroke is quite a blow to her!
- 22 - Craig as he has a lot of paperwork (taxes, of course, but also non-profit stuff).
- 23 - Levi as he tries to help out more at home.
- 24 - Josh to be led by the LORD as he ponders next steps.
- 25 - grateful for progress and God's leading and solutions on our unspoken prayer request.**
- 26 - Jen's mom eye procedures get their follow up today. Please pray that they were a success.
- 27 - us to discern more of God's vision/dream for this next season beyond the immediate medical hooah..
- 28 - Happy Birthday to Jen, it's a biggie!. The grand Medicare enrollment at 65!
- 29 - friends overseas whose parents are having big health challenges. May God provide wisdom/airfare as needed.
- 30 - Jen to get things done with far more interruptions than usual. (she can already interrupt herself a lot!).
- 31 - Craig's many preparations for a trip in March to the Himalayas.

Feb 1 - praise God that He stays the same eternally. Full of lovingkindness and ever doing a new thing.

- 2 - A traveling partner for Craig's March trip if God has one in mind. There is one possible person at press time. One other had to bow out.
- 3 - being an encouragement and help to folks at the nearby YWAM base, YWAM Yosemite.
- 4 - being an encouragement and help to folks we work with in various other nations.
- 5 - knowing when to say yes and no (had an interesting offer to revitalize marriage coaching the other day.)
- 6 - cross-cultural workers doing business as mission to bring the light of Christ in all they do.
- 7 - cross-cultural workers who are feeling discouraged to have their hope renewed.
- 8 - praise God for how he has carried us, hidden us, and sustained us through 2025 and the changes..**
- 9 - cross-cultural workers you know to be blessed in their areas of unspoken need.
- 10 - people who are stressed out by world news to find fresh peace in trusting God. He doesn't promise easy days but He does promise to never leave or forsake us.
- 11 - people caught in wars and persecutions to see God miraculously provide for them. Iran, Gaza, Laos...
- 12 - mental/emotional health for those serving refugees, soldiers, and others affected by violence.
- 13 - church planters to have wisdom on working well with existing churches (not compete).
- 14 - networking with other member care workers. Our changes mean we need to be more deliberate!

For Personal Correspondence:

EMAIL: richpoor@fastmail.com for Jen and Craig
 wandering@sent.com is for Craig ONLY
 US Mail: 41745 John Muir Drive
 Coarsegold CA 93614
 Craig: 559-558-0283
 Jen: 559-293-1747

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