

December 11, 2016

To the Advisory Board of the Joshua & Sunnyo Buck Mission Fund:

Merry Christmas! What a joyous time as we celebrate the gift of God's own Son through whom we have eternal life! I would again like to express my thanks to the JSB mission fund for its ongoing support. The partnership in the gospel ministry has been a great encouragement to my family. As we come to the end of another year, I wanted to briefly share with you what has been going on.

A verse that has brought deep conviction this year is John 12:24, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Jesus is speaking first and foremost about himself. His death has given us life. But he is also speaking about us too. And the Spirit awakened me to this sanctifying truth - only when we die to ourselves do we grow and bear fruit; only as we share in the fellowship of Christ's sufferings do we know the power of his resurrection. This year has been a gospel-transforming lesson of what it means to live by dying. I am learning slowly that dying is one of the chief ways of knowing Christ more deeply and intimately.

To my disbelief, this year I turned forty years old! Having hit this milestone, I came to realize that I'm near the halfway mark of ministry (if the Lord grants me a long ministry). And with the second half of ministry ahead of me, I felt a growing need to reflect, be refreshed, and further equipped. For these reasons I decided to go back to school and start a Doctor of Ministry program at Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon. This past September I had my first class, "Gospel-Driven Spirituality." It was an invaluable time for personal renewal in the gospel. I look forward to my next class in February. Please pray for me as I try to balance ministry and classwork.

As for our church, over the past eight months our Session has felt a growing conviction to relocate our church to a new space. The possibility of relocating the church has been both exciting and stressful. We are still in a position of praying, discussing, and waiting. On behalf of our church, I ask for your prayers. If we move, we want to honor the KM that birthed us. We also want to bless the new community we will be a part of. But while we wait on God, we hope to maintain our focus and efforts on the gospel-work that needs to be done in our church, in our city, and in the world.

Our family life has been rich and full. Our kids enjoy having both sets of grandparents nearby. With Nathaniel having started 1st grade, Laura now formally teaches all three kids! On top of home-schooling the kids, Laura also serves as the Children's Director at church. We hope that both at home and at church we will faithfully raise up the next generation for Christ. Anderson is now in sixth grade. He is a growing boy of many passions – the Bible, sports, games, and socializing. Libby is in fourth grade. She loves playing the piano and helping mom with various projects at home. Our little Nathaniel is now a young boy. He is full of life and likes to play with his older siblings. We ask for your prayers, that our kids would continue to grow in grace and that our marriage would be marked by love and humility.

In Christ,

Rev. Andrew Park

P.S. I have attached some pictures below.

Clockwise, beginning in the upper-left corner: 1) At Western Seminary in Portland, OR with one of my classmates 2) Leading an infant baptism service at church 3) Preaching at our monthly nursing home visit 4) International student ministry: touring UCLA with a student from India.

