

God's goodness is not limited by our fallible perspective of life. Many times what we view as bad, is actually very, very, good - because God's character is only capable of doing good. We are so thankful for that truth. As we have continued traveling to meetings here in the States, Pacific Light Baptist Church continues on strong in faith in the Solomon Islands. What a blessing it is to watch their faithfulness from afar! We continue renting the church facility and assisting financially in other ways as well, while sending Bible study videos to play for Sunday school. Despite the distance, technology allows us to play active roles in the ministry there.

On February 24th we welcomed our sweet little Michelle (Ellie) into this world. We could not have asked for an easier delivery (Nora's words, not mine). We are overwhelmed at the miracle of a newborn baby. One huge praise on top of a beautiful new baby girl is that Ellie's home birth was the finale of a normal pregnancy with no big interventions and zero hospital visits. When Nora was expecting Corban, all of the experts told us that she would never be able to have a normal pregnancy. We praise the Lord for this miracle and huge answer to prayer. Corban and Kezia are absolutely in love with their baby sister and are a very doting duo.

We also gained immense perspective on the fragility of life as we saw two very dear women in our lives pass on to be with our Savior. Our sister-in-law, Jenny, transitioned to Heaven on March 21st, and Nora's mother on April 7th - both Home after battling cancer. From a human perspective, there is immense pain and sadness from temporarily losing a loved one, but we rejoice in the eternal fact that both are healed from their earthly sickness, never to experience any more pain and worshipping their Savior together. Jesus is better. He is worthy.

As we anticipated our return to the Solomon Islands in June a couple weeks ago, we received an email from the US consulate with unexpected and extended guidelines. As we are all aware, Covid has drastically changed so much for missionaries. Although we knew returning would be complicated, we learned that requirements now include a 21 day quarantine (our expense) in a hotel upon arrival, along with a quarantine in Australia (also our expense), and many other expensive and numerous variables that could extend or completely cancel plans. My best calculations is a cost of around \$20,000. We have been told by the consulate that these restriction will tentatively be lifted or softened in September or October. So, after much prayer and counsel with our sending pastor and leadership, we believe that it's not wise for us to return to the Solomon Islands in June. I've spoken with Joseph, and Pacific Light Baptist Church is doing very well. Allow there is disappointment, they had already anticipated this decision with the notice of the extended emergency orders. We are very much looking forward to returning in the fall and anticipate what God will do through all of this. If we have learned nothing else this past year, we have learned yet again that God's plans are way better than anything we can try to plan. His timing is perfect. We can trust Him.

We will be taking these next months in the States to do two things. There are still many supporting churches who have not yet met any of our three children. We plan to do our best to get to as many supporting churches as possible! I will be contacting many of you in the coming days. If you would like to have us in to update your church in person, do not hesitate to call or email me. We also plan to take advantage of this time and prayerfully get our health in prime condition to return and jump back in full speed ahead. Nora has gotten in with another doctor here and is undergoing tests. Please pray with us for this!

Thank you so much for your prayer and support these last several months. The cards sent by many of you to Nora's mom left her in awe of the love from people she had never met and your love towards her meant so much to us. Thank you for loving well, for praying faithfully, and for sacrificially giving. May God continue to bless each one of you!

All for Him,
Michael, Nora, Corban, Kezia, and Ellie Deatrick

pray for
THE DEATRICK FAMILY

