

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country." As we learn patience waiting for our return, it is such an encouraging to hear positive reports from the church in the Solomon Islands. God has continued to bless the work there during our stay here in the US. When we receive photos documenting each Sunday from Joseph, it is always neat to pick out new faces that are unfamiliar to us and of course to see those who have remained faithful. It's encouraging to see that the people of Pacific Light Baptist Church are working to reach their community. I continue to record and send a Bible study video every week as internet allows.

The last months have been filled with travel as we have so much enjoyed spending time with many of you, our supporting churches. It has been wonderful to update you on what God has done in the Solomon Islands and fellowship with fellow laborers for Him. God has blessed us with an amazing support structure here in the States. Each meeting has clearly been orchestrated by God as we have conversed about His faithfulness. Isn't He so very good?

We are thankful that the working of God doesn't pause in seasons of waiting. Ellie's birth certificate has still not arrived. Nora has been persistent in making sure they do not forget us and has spent much time on the phone with the state health department. Just a few days ago, we received word that they are doing the final processing and review before sending her birth certificate. Please pray that it will get here quickly so we can begin the passport process. We are happy to say that we have received her Social Security number. We are very thankful that this piece of the puzzle is completed. As the children's song says, "Little by little, inch by inch!"

Three weeks ago, we sent the Solomon Government our request for special permission to enter. That is one of the hurdles between us and the Solomons as they must publish our names in the government paper before we get the green light to go. Shortly after we sent our request, the Prime Minister announced a complete lockdown on flights into the country. Although we have not been given a specific date they plan to reopen, we have been advised that Solomon Airlines has begun selling tickets for the middle of September. The PM also stated that the regulations of 21 day mandatory quarantine with four negative tests each will remain in effect until the population is 80% vaccinated. They currently stand just over 3%.

Another hurdle for our return is the current cost of plane tickets. As soon as we get the green light to purchase tickets, we desire to leave as soon as possible. We know that we need at least 21 days between purchase and departure as we have to quarantine at home for that long before leaving. Looking at tickets 6-8 weeks down the road with the unique conditions Covid has brought, the prices are exorbitant in the range of \$30,000-\$40,000 for one way tickets for our family to Brisbane, Australia. That looks like an awfully big mountain to overcome, but I think of what our Savior told His disciples when they lacked faith in Matthew 17:20, "Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." We are resting in our Savior today that he has a plan and a path for us to return to the Solomon Islands in His timing. His timing is best. He is our Father and He owns the cattle on a thousand hills. Nothing...NOTHING is too hard for Him.

Please pray with us that God would open the door for us to return to the Solomon Islands far sooner than our expectations, but ultimately that we would be patient and rest in His timing. Please pray as we seek to minister remotely to Islanders who are in need. Pray that God will strengthen and encourage Pacific Light Baptist Church during this period of waiting. I have attached a few photos of services there. May God bless you all richly.

All for Him,  
The Deatrick Family

pray for  
**THE DEATRICK FAMILY**

