

Derek & Kristin Dearth Newsletter

Summer
2019

Uphill Climbing

We are not huge hikers or climbers, but we have done it enough to know what it feels like. And, metaphorically, it feels like we have been in an uphill climb this summer. Growth and progress are not achieved without a bit of sweat and pain, but we are so thankful for what has been accomplished and for the view as we keep climbing.

In late May, I (Derek) spent a week in Texas helping to facilitate some missionary cultural training. This is an area that we are really excited about at ACTION. We are trying to provide more cultural training for our missionaries that are heading out to the field and help them with ongoing training and resources once they have gone to the field. **This was our first time offering a training like this in a different region of the US, and we praise God that our first-time mobile cultural training seemed to be successful!**

ACTION Regional Meeting

Shortly after that, I participated in another “first” for ACTION - a Regional Meeting in Costa

Rica for workers serving in Latin America and the Caribbean. A total of 36 people gathered, representing 10 of our fields: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, Mexico, Peru, United States, and Canada. It was a good time for building relationships and for regional missionaries to network with each other. I assisted with website troubleshooting for missionaries and also led a session on working in an interdenominational mission together.

Sending to the Unreached

Even when I am not traveling, Kristin and I keep busy with ACTION work, particularly in the areas of mobilization and serving as pre-field coaches to missionaries preparing for the field. This has been a real joy and encouragement for us! **God is bringing some amazing people to ACTION, and we are excited to see expansion in the Middle East and Asia, as new people are going to the unreached in these areas of the world.**



Texas Training, above



Regional Meeting in Costa Rica, above and below



Coming Up

On our front burner is a prayer and planning retreat for our USA Leadership Team that we will be hosting here in the Twin Cities this month. **We are anticipating a rich time of fellowship as we seek the Lord together and plan for the upcoming year.**

Fall tends to be a busier travel time for me, and this year will be no different. **Working remotely is a great blessing but has its limitations**, so I try to spend some time in our Seattle office every couple months to connect with the staff, participate more easily in meetings, and more. In September, I will be attending an ACTION Board meeting and helping facilitate a new-member orientation at the office. **Apart from traveling to Seattle, I am planning to visit SE Asia for the first time on a scouting trip of sorts for potential ministry opportunities.**

We are amazed and blessed at the privilege we have to help train new missionaries and give direction to some of ACTION's work. **Thank you for praying and giving to help us continue serving the broader mission community!**

Support Update

Even though we minister through the USA office for ACTION, we are still 100% support-based missionaries. **We are praying for a couple new monthly supporters to help round out our monthly support needs. You can give at actioninternational.org/dearth**

Family Update



Charlie (7) finished up his Kindergarten year this past Spring at a local Christian school here in the Twin Cities! We have been so grateful for the teachers that have invested in him and provided an incredible learning experience for him.

Between my Texas and Costa Rica trips, we moved into our new rental house - a more spacious, single-family home, complete with two tree swings in the front yard! **This has been a great provision for our busy family**, even though we did feel a bit sad to move out of the house that saw us through our transition back from Zambia.



Sam (4 1/2) seems to have become a big boy overnight - maybe it is being a big brother now. He has so graciously relinquished his place as the baby in the family and melts us all with his sincere kindness to anyone and everyone.

Karis is our little peanut, now over 5 months old. She is constantly moving and should be a crawling expert by the end of August. We are all smitten by her smiles and fun-loving personality.

That the nations would know Jesus,

*Derek & Kristin,
Charlie, Sam, & Karis*

Kid Quotes

Charlie:

- * "I feel sad for Noah when all those people were laughing at him. If I was there, I would give him 2 thumbs up and tell him that he was doing a great job with all that hard work." (About Noah building the ark)
- * "The thing I love about heaven is no naps and no darkness. That's a kid's dream - no dark and no sleeping!"
- * "It feels really good to be a grownup, because you get to be the boss."
- * "Whew! I guess it's hard being a birthday boy and eating pancakes at the same time."
- * "All you have to do to go to heaven is trust in Jesus and ask him to forgive your sins! I just did that about 11 times in the other room."
- * "Karis is learning how to talk, which she learned from me, because I talk A LOT. I talk so, so much."
- * "Camping is like going out into the wilderness...on purpose." (Referring to the Israelites)

Sam:

- * "Someday, you should make ants on a log...but not real ants, and not real logs."
- * "Sometime, can we go to a store and blah blah blah? Ya know, that means, like, get a toy."
- * "What can I have that's not crunchy and rubbish to eat?"

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