

Dear Friends!

Thank you for all of your kind words to us after Ryan's Grandma's passing. What a blessing to have people like you in our lives! We love and appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness more than we can say.

We are writing to you to update you on our lives – but specifically to ask for extra prayers this week as we participate in a week of intense debriefing. We are being debriefed for our 3 years in Sweden by a team from YWAM Montana, USA who specialize in debriefing YWAM missionaries like us. We are looking forward to this time, and anticipate God's faithfulness and participation in our processing and healing from our time. This is a great way to find closure and move on in a positive way, which is our main motivation for signing up! Life is generally not easy for anyone and we are so blessed to have the opportunity to process this with people who are equipped to help us along. Please keep us covered in prayer as much as you can – because debriefing can be difficult and emotional! It is hard work, this growing stuff!

From this hour, freedom!

From this hour I ordain myself loos'd of limits and imaginary lines,

Going where I list, my own master, total and absolute,

Listening to others, and considering well what they say,

Pausing, searching, receiving, contemplating,

Gently, but with undeniable will, divesting myself of the holds that would hold me.

Walt Whitman (Song of the Open Road, Paragraph 5)

We have really struggled with sickness the last two months. We all got some kind of cold/flu virus, then Daphney had a visit to the hospital for Bronchitis (while Ryan was in Nepal, naturally!). All of us were then hit with a round of gastro – the girls while Ryan was in Nepal. Unfortunately, it hit Ryan the worst of all and he was not able to board the train that would take him to the flight home to Australia (for his grandmother's funeral). We were all saddened by this, as he was really hoping to be home to say goodbye to his grandma properly surrounded by loved ones, but that was not to be. We are hoping that this is the last of the illness for a very long time, as it has just been absolutely ridiculous. Every day brought some new sickness and we are sick and tired of being sick and tired! Things are now looking up though.

Other big news is that Juanita has decided to defer her studies until October. There were a few reasons for this – the constant sickness has really worn her out, Ryan has a few photography trips planned for this time, and she has not had much time for studying Ukrainian or building relationships with the people around her, including more one on one time with Ryan and the girls. We are hoping that this break in studying Forced Migration will allow her to enjoy our first summer here and give her more time to acclimate to Ternopil. Leaving Sweden has been very difficult for Juanita as she misses the beautiful friends that she had there, and whom she was extremely close to. Starting over is never easy, so we want to give her space to do that. Friendships are extremely important.

The last piece of news that we have is that Ryan's trip to Nepal went great! It was fantastic to work with Dinadi again, who also recruited a professional model for some of the shots – making things run a bit more fluidly for Ryan. The main bulk of the work is actually in post-production here at home, not in Nepal as one might think. Ryan took roughly 3,500 photographs to sort through, do basic edits on, send back to the client for selection of images, then do more detailed editing for final images. It is quite the process! But he loves it and us girls are super proud of him. Next time we will add some photos of his work for you to see, and I am sure he will add his favourites to his website when he is finished. Until then, here is the link to a blog that he wrote about his trip!
<http://www.ryancarterimages.com/2017/04/fun-in-durbar-square/>

Aside from all of Ryan's editing, life is going along as normal! Ryan is working with the ongoing, weekly, photo club, and Juanita is helping with hospitality on the YWAM base while the staff member who usually runs hospitality (preparing rooms and welcome baskets, cleaning, etc) is away on an outreach with the DTS in Mariupol, Ukraine. Hazel is doing fantastic work with her school and we are having fun home-schooling her. Her art has really improved and she keeps impressing us with her work! Daphney also likes to do school work, so Juanita is working on helping her learn her alphabet properly (reading prep) and she is getting better at writing her name. Otherwise we do Bible stories, lots of read-alouds, and play!

Here is a little snapshot of our spring and summer plans, as far as we know them:

Opportunity to work with a kids camp for 10 days (as a part of some friend's larger ministry with orphans and mercy ministries)

Ryan will be going to South Africa to do images for a family missions trip with a church from Texas. Ryan is still sorting out dates for a trip to the DR Congo with our good friend from Focus Congo, Pappy Orion. This may have to be rescheduled for the fall, but the idea is to squeeze it in during the summer sometime! Juanita and the girls are trying to sort out dates for a trip to Sweden. The girls miss their friends, and so does Juanita, so they are hoping to make a short trip to reconnect with friends while the weather is good. Ryan's parents are coming for a visit at the end of July!

The girls will hopefully participate in some summer activities/kids clubs that will help them learn and practice their Ukrainian (we have a great tutor for them).

Again, thank you for praying for us and supporting us in so many ways! If God tells you anything about us that you would like to share, especially this week, we would love to hear! Let us know how we can pray for you too, we'd be honoured.

Blessings,
Ryan, Juanita, Hazel and Daphney
Dinadi team, in Nepal