

January 6, 2025
Letter 35

Dear Praying Friends and Faithful Supporters,

Thank you for your patience as we share this update. The past several weeks have been full, and we are grateful for your continued grace as we communicate what the Lord has been doing in our family.

We want to begin by sincerely thanking you for the extra generosity shown during the Christmas season. Your sacrificial giving was a tremendous encouragement to us, and we do not take your support—financial or prayerful—lightly. Thank you for standing with us.

On Christmas Eve, the Lord provided a great blessing through an endocrinologist appointment for Lydia. We are thankful to report that her thyroid levels are normal, which brought much relief. While the appointment did not point out specific triggers, it did eliminate major physical concerns. Since then, through careful observation and prayer, we have been able to identify what the triggers are and can now focus on finding an effective and lasting solution.

After much prayer, seeking Godly counsel, and carefully considering what is best for our family, we have made the difficult but necessary decision to delay our relocation to the field. Our desire is for our entire family to be able to function well and serve effectively in ministry, and in order for that to happen, each of us must be able to do our part. This has not been an easy decision, but we believe it is a wise and faithful one.

For this season, we will be staying with family while we pursue the appropriate and necessary help. We do not want to put God on a timeline, yet we are prayerfully hoping to have a clearer plan in place by March. Our desire is not merely to survive once we arrive on the field, but to truly thrive—for the sake of our family and the work the Lord has called us to do.

Our family is our first and most important ministry, and we are committed to shepherding it well. We are deeply thankful that Lydia is willing to follow whithersoever the Lord may lead our family; at the same time, as a husband and father, I carry a God-given responsibility to lead our family with wisdom and care. Many do not fully understand the emotional, physical, and spiritual stress that comes with preparing to move to a third-world country—especially with young children. We are deeply grateful for those of you who have extended grace, encouragement, and prayer as we walk this path.

In this season of uncertainty, we are resting in the promise of Psalm 119:105, *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”* Though the Lord may not reveal the whole path at once, we trust Him to give light for each step.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and continued prayers. Please continue to pray for wisdom, healing, and clear direction. We are confident that the Lord is at work, even in the waiting.

With grateful hearts,
Ethan Donoho and Family

