

# Groggs Stateside

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# Merry Christmas



## An Idaho Christmas

*Wet, but not White*

Not that it matters to us adults, but the kids sure did want a white Christmas, especially after three Christmases in the tropics where even the temperature doesn't feel right for the season.

It's still hard for me to believe that Christmas is here, and along with it, another year about to begin. My mind swirls thinking about all that has happened in the previous year, let alone the one before it. Sometimes, I simply have to skip to another topic to stop the possible whirlpool in my head.

Having Christ as my anchor has saved me many a-time from sinking with the ship of unchecked thoughts and the emotions that tend to come with them.

God gave us emotions as a gift though, and we are to use them and experience them to His glory and praise. If we don't, we are sinning, causing damage to ourselves and those around us.

## Born to Die

*Emmanuel, God with Us*

Speaking of gifts, the best gift God gave us is His Son. He was born to die. He lived sinlessly, was accused falsely, killed unjustly, buried richly, and rose miraculously. He conquered death

and sin. He owns the world, this world! His reign will never end.

This cannot be undone by anything. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to us, therefore we must go and make disciples of all men. What a great hope to go out into all the world with. We are already triumphant! Jesus, the Christ, is Lord of all!

## All I Want for Christmas

*...is a job for Jason.*

I've spent the last couple of weeks searching job sites for anything remotely close to Millwright work that wouldn't take him far from home. I think I've put his resume in for at least a dozen or so jobs. He has had three companies call him and two have led to interviews. Both of those went very well but one is an hour away and the other is just on the other side of Moscow. He has one more interview scheduled for the first week of January. I'm praying that God's gift to us this year would be a local job so Jason can continue to provide for us without sacrificing family time.

## Legal Update Tidbit

*Stagnant Waters*

Thank you for your prayers regarding mediation for the kids' lawsuit. Unfortunately, nothing happened. The mediator came down sick and no one else was available. If nothing changes between now and early January,

## ... PRAISE ...

- We enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving in Indiana with family and God richly provided for our return to Idaho with our winter gear.

- Elijah and Nathan's 1<sup>st</sup> semester at Logos wrapped up well with them having received (almost) all As and Bs. Hey, Latin is tough if you're suddenly thrown into it.

## ... PRAYER ...

- Sickness has been on the rampage not just in our house but the whole community and from what I hear, the nation. 'Tis the season....

- The Maker's Shop is rapidly gaining momentum. Pray for wisdom and guidance for all involved.

- Mitigation for the kids' lawsuit never happened so we're back in court early January.

- Official paperwork from the Dominica government regarding Jason's customs case still isn't filed.

**X\Twitter @Vorrex7**

**YouTube @jgrogg**

we'll be heading back to High Court.

Jason has been conversing with American Airlines regarding their refusal of him to board his flight to Dominica in June. With each email correspondence, they up the amount of credit offered to him, but to date, there has been no offer of legal paperwork from the airline as to why they kept him from boarding.

## A Quick God Story

*His Ways are Best.*

At the beginning of November, we reserved a van to bring us back to Idaho after Thanksgiving. Everything was confirmed and seemed set.

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving, Jason got a call from the rental company saying they had no vehicle - not even a small car. The manager had been out for the past month and reservations hadn't been taken care of. Jason went to talk with them in person, and while the guy was deeply apologetic, there was nothing he could do.

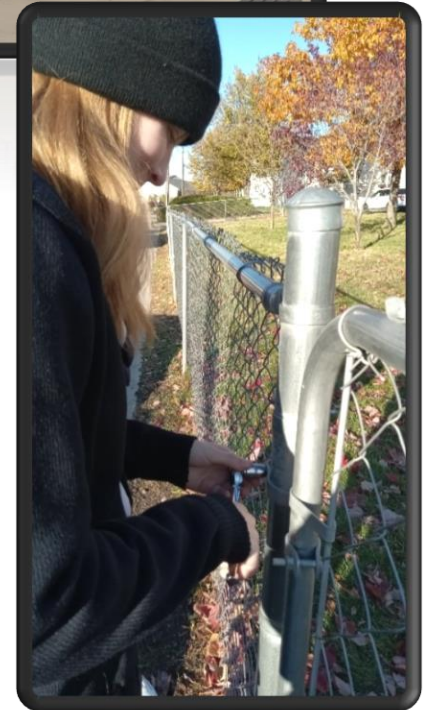
As we started brainstorming other options, God was working (as He always is). A couple hours later, the guy called back saying someone had just returned a van early since their car was now fixed. To top that off, the guy asked if Jason could come get it early (that night) since he had about four other people showing up Friday morning for their rentals, and it was going to be hectic.

Above and beyond! Not only did God provide us with a van, but he did so at an earlier date, allowing us to take our time packing, and at the same cost as if we'd picked it Friday (because they messed up). God had to take something away to make it even better.

As I told my mom earlier this month, we may be dirt poor, but we are exceedingly blessed! All glory to God!



*Above: Nathan, posing with the Union Pacific's 6900 while Gracia takes a picture of the Big Boy, #4023 in Kenefick Park, Omaha, NE on our trip back to Idaho.*



*Right: Eliyah, fixing the gate in front of Logos school before break. She professes to be a Millwright simply because she's the daughter of one. :D*

*Jesus is King!*

Until next time, the *Groggs*

*Merry Christmas*

