

Further Up & Further In

ChristianExodus.net

10/29/2025 | Vol. 5–Issue 5

Further Up & Further In Deeper into Aslan's Country

God, Yahweh, and His Kingdom grow more real, the deeper we penetrate. The longer we study, learn, and grow here in Moscow, the more we are realizing how little we actually know and understand. As one dim light dawns upon the dimmer light before it, we become increasingly excited at the good works we know God has in store for us.

C.S. Lewis' doctrine of heaven as endless growth, not static bliss, can be captured in his book, *The Last Battle*, in one phrase, "Further Up and Further In." It's a call to keep moving! Keep building, keep taking dominion, don't retire, or stall out.

Lewis believed that our joy grows with each step we take in communion with our Lord, in the direction of the Kingdom.

And so that's where we pull our stamina and our endurance from as we run this long race God has set forth before us. It seems never ending, with set-backs and snares along the way. But God is faithful, giving us everything we need to live a Godly life. That being said, let me catch you up on the task set before us!

Family Matters School, Visits, and a Baptism

Nathan and Eliyah have been back in school for one quarter so far. Nathan is now in 7th grade and doing well. Eliyah is in 11th and

one of the first classes in Logos' newly constructed Lewis building on the new North Campus. She's finding 11th harder than 10th but has still been able to maintain her straight A's. Her heart is looking further up and further in as well, as she is gearing up to prep for applying to New Saint Andrews College during her senior year.

Only a couple weeks into school, Nathan missed 1.5 days to help some friends with their steer at the fair. One had broken her finger badly and just needed some



support with the big friendly beasts. Nathan ended up helping with all three animals and really got into the dirt of it. 😊

Along with still working full time at CHS Primeland, helping on the farm with fences and other maintenance, and keeping the vehicles running in good condition, Jason took on a theological class called Issachar's Sons. It's a discipleship group that meets every Wednesday during lunch for a whole academic year. They will be reading 16 books on everything from the creeds and church history to eschatology, fundamentalism, and heresies.

We were blessed earlier this month to have my parents come visit for a week. I made Bingo cards of license plates they had to look for as we were out and

... PRAISE ...

- The baptism of Baby Felix
- A wonderful visit with Jenn's parents.
- Growing, and learning more and more about our heavenly Father and His Kingdom.
- Being able to thank Him and praise Him in All things and FOR all things.
- Nathan and Eliyah are attending Logos for another year and doing well.

... PRAYER ...

- Wisdom as we continue striving to get out of debt and stand on our own feet.
- Knowledge and finances to keep our borrowed vehicles running and in good condition.
- Wisdom and guidance as The Maker's Shop continues looking for a building.
- The kids' lawsuit to be expedited or the Dominican gov't choosing to settle with us.
- Justice to be had in Domincia regarding Jason's custom case and our possessions.

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another card of places we wanted to go, things to do and sights to see. Nathan and my Dad used them one day as a scavenger hunt. We had a great time, enjoying each other, the weather, the fall leaves, and showing them in person the things we'd only talked about or showed them in pictures.

While they were here, we were blessed for them to witness Felix's baptism, as being born into a covenant. As a body of believers, we welcomed him by repeating together the following: *Little child, for you Jesus Christ came to this earth, struggled and suffered; for your sake He crossed Gethsemane and went through the darkness of Calvary; for your sake He cried: 'It is finished'; for your sake He died and for your sake He overcame death; indeed for your sake, little child, and you still know nothing of it. And thus the word of the apostle is confirmed: "We love God, for He loved us first." Amen.*

With the departure of my parents on October 20th, also came the departure of Gracia. She traveled back with them to Indiana for a

dear family friend's wedding (Congrats Becca!!), to work for her Aunt Sara, have Thanksgiving with family and visit Florida with Jason's parents. We look forward to her growth during this time and her swift return to us before the end of the year.

Striving for Justice In Dominica and Elsewhere

A legal update has been slow in the works. As with most things in life, it all takes time. God has given us all the time we need, but we must make good use of it, being faithful in the small and the large. So where are we with all the legal items in our lives?

September had Jason in Texas for his small claims court against American Airlines. The judge ended up ruling in favor of AA since they have their rears covered in all areas with legalese. However, AA did make several illegal moves and we're slowly working with a lawyer in Texas to see what can be done on a broader scope. (More to come on that in video form.)

November 24th will be the first pre-trial hearing in Dominica regarding the lawsuit against the government for the illegal holding of our children. We're told there will be at least one more pre-trial

hearing after that, before the actual trial. Please be in prayer that God would grant wisdom and discernment to Jilane, our lawyer, and He would sway the heart of the judge in our favor.

The government of Dominica, to this day, has not dropped its charges against Jason, even though they said they did. There is no paperwork to show the charges are dropped and no paperwork to show our deportation was legal. That being said, Jason is technically still on bail, and the government maintains their hold on our possessions.

So, blessing or curse? These things cannot be categorized outside of God's goodness. As Doug Wilson said, "They are not a puzzle to be solved." "If we, being them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.... Everything in (our) life is contributing to (our) glorification and (us) being made like Jesus Christ." Trust God and don't flinch. Move further up and further in! To Him be all the glory forevermore!

Jesus is King!

Until next time, the *Groggs*



*Top Pic: Grandparents with Felix.
Bottom: Four Generations.*

