

## Family Update

This year has been a very full one and has involved a lot of change for our family! In May, we drove to Chicago and were able to attend the college graduations of two of our daughters! Olivia graduated from Moody Bible Institute with a Bachelor's Degree in Ministry to Women, and Sabrina graduated from Moody Theological Seminary with a Master's Degree in Biblical Spiritual Formation and Discipleship. After graduation weekend, we spent several days at a vacation house on Lake Michigan in Wisconsin with all of our girls (and spouses). What a fun and refreshing time! We then drove back to Texas with Olivia and all of her dorm furnishings. This summer, Olivia has restarted her baking business (Liv a Little) as well as worked at two of the coffee shops. In June, Brian and I were able to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary with a cruise. It was a great relaxing time celebrating God's goodness over the years.

We were thrilled to learn early this year that Sabrina and Stoller are expecting their first child in early September! We can't wait to meet this sweet baby girl and plan to go to New Mexico to help out for a bit right after her arrival. Stoller continues to work at his job at Sagebrush Church with small groups and discipleship. In June, Sabrina was hired as the worship director for the church. In addition to their jobs, they are busy getting ready for the baby's arrival! Alyssa and Tim are also both enjoying their jobs and are involved in their church and community group.

## Ministry Update

Nine months ago, we sent you our "quarterly" prayer letter. While our goal is to communicate with all of you four times a year, this year has been one for the books – a lot can and has happened in nine months! In addition to our becoming grandparents (in a few weeks) as you learned about above, we have served many customers and wrestled through many difficulties while watching God work in and through our team for His glory. Here is a brief recap of the last nine months of the business (and all the ups and downs) that helps to fund the sharing of the gospel through the local churches in Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico.

In December, I spent many hours training team members and refining processes at the new coffee shop that opened in November in Melissa, Texas. I've also been teaching as an adjunct professor for the graduate program at Criswell College in Dallas for the past several years. In January, I enjoyed leading four students through the spring semester of Organizational Management. God's providence and grace was very evident in February when we were able to move into a different space for our HOPE Coffee corporate office and warehouse. Had we not moved into our previous location in 2020, we would not have received the generous payout for the eminent domain relocation package that required another move in February of this year. These funds just so happened to come at the right time when we needed to purchase green coffee at an all-time high price (doubled) due to the commodity market changes. So, when March came, and our roaster, who had recently been bought out, raised their roasting prices 2-3 times the previous price, we had to smile. Because we had experienced God's faithfulness to us in the previous month, we knew He would provide, in His time, and in His way. It was this month that I began helping a couple as a business coach. A local church in Dallas has a unique ministry of providing business training for existing small business owners in an economically challenged area of Dallas. I had so much fun helping this couple and sharing the stories of God's faithfulness to HOPE Coffee over the years. In April, our leadership team for HOPE Coffee met to plan our next steps. Jennifer and I were also able to meet with a group of coffee farmers from Chiapas, Mexico who grow the Mexican coffee we purchase when they were in Texas for a conference. May, June and July were filled with searching for a new roaster, covering for several of our coffee shop leaders who were out on maternity leave, and hiring new team members for each of the three shops. August has come with a few great opportunities to share the story of HOPE Coffee at a local Rotary Club and with a church group. I always love sharing the HOPE Coffee story, because I get to share the gospel through telling the story. Please pray as people hear what God has done, that they will grow in their faith or that they will want to trust in Him!



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Whew! I shared all of that so that you can praise God with us because all of these events led to the funding of sharing the gospel. In February, March and April, there were 31 families in Mexico who received food baskets and who heard the gospel shared with them by their Christian neighbors. In April and June, 65 families in Honduras received water filters and heard the gospel, and 8 people trusted in Jesus! In May, a roof was completed for a family in Honduras, and 1 more person trusted in Jesus!

Four of these people, Norely, Dalia, Senovia and Yenir were living in Resumidero, a village that was accidentally overlooked in the water filter distribution that we funded late last year in Santa Barbara, Honduras. This is another story of God's perfect timing. Yenir is a 26-year-old man who was deported from the US back to Honduras earlier this year. He just so happened to land in the village of Resumidero. It just so happened that our team accidentally missed that village late last year in their count of those who needed water filters. And so, in March we began to plan to purchase more water filters and partner with the local church and three pastors, Carlos, Arnulfo and German. Once they were purchased, the date of April 15, was chosen as the distribution day where they would share the gospel. It just so happened that Yenir was there, received a water filter, heard the gospel and trusted in Jesus! Please pray for Arnulfo and German as they disciple these four new believers

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Dalia



Senovia



Norely



Yenir

**YES!** I would love to partner with Brian and Jennifer in their ministry.

- I will pray for the ministry of the Masters
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