



A Changing Rhythm to Life

As we mentioned in our last letter, we welcomed Dee Gochanour to Ghana in mid-February. She jumped right in and was able to take over the homeschooling responsibilities by the end of her first week here. Levi and Eden have enjoyed having Dee as their teacher. She has really livened up some areas that had become mundane. Apart from the seriousness of academic work, the kids have enjoyed Dee playing Minecraft with them some afternoons.

Dee's presence has allowed Ali some much needed space to work on member care related tasks. Ali was able to finish reading two books on trauma and risk that she had not previously been able to focus on. She also spent a great deal of time compiling her many resources into an online

notebook that our missionaries can now access on their own. That notebook will be a living document that Ali can update as new articles, books, and resources become available that are relevant to caring for overseas workers. On the personal side, it was helpful having Dee around as another adult while Paul was gone for many weeks during the first quarter of the year.

We are excited to share that Dee is also moving to Ethiopia in August! She will teach at the elementary campus of Bingham Academy in Addis Ababa where our kids will attend. It has been great to form this relationship with Dee here in Ghana especially knowing that we will continue on to a new place together. To learn more about Deanne or to support her work, go to <https://go.LBT.org/gochanour>.

Confirmation of Faith

On Sunday, April 24, Eden confirmed her faith at St. Paul's Lutheran Church here in Accra. This congregation is what we have called home since moving to Accra six years ago. The pastors have invested their time helping the children of the congregation to learn the foundations of the Lutheran faith. We are so excited that all 3 of our children have been able to confirm their faith at St. Paul's before we move to Ethiopia.

Eden's chosen verse for this occasion was "Praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord." Psalm 150:5-6



Summer in the US

While Paul was in the US in March for meetings, he also had the opportunity to spend a week in Wisconsin visiting some of you who support our ministry. Although presenting during Bible classes or LWML meetings is how we normally share about our ministry, Paul was able to visit several people in their homes or over a meal. Thank you for your hospitality during his visits, it was an encouragement to share about our upcoming ministry focus in person.

This summer we will be in the US as a whole family for the months of June and July. This will be the first time the kids have been to the US in four years! As much as we would love to spend that time travelling around to visit many of you, we also want to take advantage of our short time to be with our families. We will land in Ohio and enjoy our first

Paul & Ali FEDERWITZ

Hannah, Levi & Eden

ABOUT US

Paul is LBT's Chief Information Officer and Assistant Director for Program Ministries. He also serves as a computer consultant to missionaries and organizations in West Africa.

Ali is responsible for the home education of our children. She is also a Member Care Facilitator for LBT.

Paul and Ali's ministry is funded solely through donations from individuals and groups.

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weeks with Ali's family. In early July we will get together with Paul's family. All 3 of his siblings, their children, and his mother will be in the US at the same time which is no small feat. We depart for Ethiopia at the beginning of August with the hope of being somewhat settled before the kids start school in the middle of the month.

In the middle of June we will be visiting the Chicago area to reconnect with those of you who live in northern Illinois. Our expected dates are June 17th to 29th. If you would like for us to join your Bible study or small group, or would like to just have a meal together, please let us know.

Steps of Transition

There are multiple aspects in the moving process that need our time and attention. There is the act of getting rid of items that are no longer needed, whether that means throwing things away, giving them to someone, or selling them. This seems to be the part that can take over any time allotted to it and then some. Ali has spent a considerable amount of her days just sorting through drawers and shelves and cabinets to pair down our belongings. In early April we had our first yard sale. This was devoted to clearing our house of items related to homeschooling and things that our kids have outgrown. The invitation went to over 60 homeschooling families here in Accra. We made a good dent in selling items that we will no longer be using or cannot take with us but there is still a fair amount left. We are planning a second sale in mid-May where we will include our household items and extend the invitation to a wider group of people.

Another aspect of the transition process is everything related to our emotions. After living here for over 15 years, our connections run deep. Although our entire family feels called to Ethiopia and knows that leaving Ghana is the right thing at this time, that doesn't make the act of leaving any easier. There are people, and things, to whom we need to say goodbye knowing that we may not cross paths with them again. There are things we wish we would have done or seen or done differently. We talk openly about all of this, but we also know that we can't do it alone. In early April, we asked an experienced missionary couple serving with another mission to help walk us through a process of debriefing our transition. This is a systemic process of talking through our hopes and regrets, our likes and dislikes, and preparing us for the things ahead. Ali is in charge of making sure LBT missionaries go through this process each time they go on furlough, but she obviously can't do it for our own family. We are grateful that we each had our own chance to share our feelings, hopes, and fears related to our move and receive affirmation, encouragement, and empathy at the same time.

In Home Security

Eden has been involved in taekwondo for the last few years. She has challenged herself and gone outside of her comfort zone to meet the demands her instructors have set before her.

In March, she earned her black belt. Knowing that we are soon moving, the instructors worked diligently to help Eden achieve this level three months earlier than she normally would have. This meant that Eden needed to work extra hard and stay focused. We are proud of Eden and grateful for the kindness of her coaches.

