



Come Closer... Shocklee Family Update

A YEAR OF SABBATICAL

Come Closer...

“God has an outside voice, and He’s not afraid to use it. But when God wants to be heard, when what He has to say is too important to miss, He often speaks in a whisper just above the absolute threshold of hearing”, (1)

Learning to hear and move with the whisper and breath of God is where I have found refuge and my hiding place the last year as I have walked out something very new and unfamiliar to me... a planned time of sabbatical.

Do you ever have a moment where something grows legs and walks out of your mouth before your mind has time to process the outcome? That’s what happened to me in 2017 while wrapping up a meeting for potential new board members for The Bridge Connection. Out of my mouth flowed a statement that caused everyone to realize I needed a time of rest. Little did I know that moment would be pivotal in my relationship with God.

Over the last year while on sabbatical, God has taught me one of the easiest yet hardest lessons - simply “just being” is enough. This refreshing walk with God has taught me that I don’t have to “do” anything, but merely learn to hear Him, feel Him, see Him

in His wonderful creation, in quiet whispers of affirmation, and in the new time and space I had. As I lived this out, I also found time to “just be” with my kids.

During this season of rest, our family found relaxation and enjoyment in finding new rhythms in our homeschool adventure, in being blessed with a two-week (15 state plus Canada) road trip with mainly unplanned days and just going where led, in times of fasting and focusing on time spent with God and each other, and in working together on our tiny house. Elani and I also were blessed with celebrating the arrival of her teen years with a trip to Sea World. Finally, I took my annual Mom and Me trip, with my beautiful Mom to New York.

As a side note and worthy of a prayer request... We were not able to follow through with our training with FEWS in Kona last year due to medical concerns with one of my kids. We were still under doctors’ care and focusing on health was the most important. We are back, not even a year later, facing the same concerns after being cleared in April of 2018.

“You know your heart is healed when you start dreaming again”, (Pastor Dustin Bates). This last month finds dreams busting out again, in a life-giving way. The LONG-awaited dream of an affordable, sustainable housing community is just on the horizon. But more about that soon... God is still bringing into view what the next season holds.

MACHALI, ELANI, & ZACH

Thank you to everyone who has carried us in this season and helped us move forward even when progress is not seen in the physical. I can assure you this has been a season of heart surgery, one which is of inward purification, even when walking through the heat of the flames is not always viewable by anyone other than the one being operated on. Feel free to call or email for a more generous update of the last eighteen months.



(1)Batterson, Mark. "1." *Read the Bible. A Free Bible on Your Phone, Tablet, and Computer.* | The Bible App | Bible.com, www.bible.com/reading-plans/8721-whisper-how-hear-the-voice-of-god-mark-batterson/day/2.