

“Hurry Up and Wait”

Greeting Dear Friends and Family!

Many of you are familiar with the military phrase: “Hurry Up and Wait!” This is when your commanding officer gives you orders of commission but you are still awaiting the actual deployment. This delay in timing has been our recent experience in “the Lord’s army.” We want to share with you what is going on with us and our ministry despite not having yet moved.



We believed by now we would be sending you this from our new home somewhere in Dallas, Texas. However, this is still not yet the case.

We were certain we all heard the Lord say “sell your home, get out of debt and move.” So we were obedient to the word we heard from the Lord. Selling a home while living in it is a bit tricky. On any given day, within a few hours notice, we could be asked to vacate the house for a showing where perfect strangers are walking all through it. It was a bit exhausting.

At one point we were in escrow with a full asking price offer! Yahoo!!! But three weeks into the sale, our new next door neighbor demanded back a portion of property that our home has used for 65 years. This demand killed the deal and the setback left us frustrated and exhausted.

Why would the Lord allow this to happen? We were being obedient to what we heard. After a short time away for rest and prayer, we decided to take the house off the market and put it back on the market sometime this summer. But then we all heard the Lord say “wait.” We’re not certain why. We thought we were moving right away but the Lord has seemed to put us in a “holding pattern” that we don’t fully understand. We are simply being obedient to what we heard from the Lord in prayer.

This time of waiting has not been easy. In faith, I (Brandon) quit my full-time paid position with the Gathering so we have been living off of Kristina’s income. Due to some generous gifts from supporters in Fall 2022 we were making ends meet. However, things have gotten slim.

During this time of walking in faith we are learning more on how to trust God with all areas of our lives and how to discern the plans of God and not follow the plans of man. We want to hear and obey God’s plan. If God tells you *not* to push you do not push. When God says “wait,” you wait. And so here we are. But we do believe God will be giving us marching orders very soon. Yet we do not know exactly when.

During this time we are hearing God say “continue to invest where you are until I move you to your new assignment.” So many folks in the actual military who are awaiting

deployment fail to invest in solid relationships because they will “probably be leaving soon.” Then when their deployment is delayed they find they have failed to grow good healthy infrastructure around themselves and their families. So here is what we have been doing to invest where we are located, while awaiting additional orders.

Kristina has continued in her job at *Kaiser* of the last 21 years. *Kaiser Psychiatry* is VERY pleased to still have her gifts and experience present. Kristina has great favor there and, even with potential transition, they have continuously given her more influence and interesting responsibilities such as clinical oversight of new therapists.

Kassie has been rehired as a barista at *Mount Hermon Christian Conference Center*. She is growing as a worship leader and a singer songwriter. “Kassie Grace” has made some new friends at her job while maintaining her close group of Bethel Church of Redding friends, many of whom are on missions all over the planet. Kassie has a powerful anointing on her for writing novels, poetry and music. Kassie just returned from a very impactful week at the *School of Worship* up at Bethel. In the Fall Kassie will be attending the *Upper Room Ministry School* online with an emphasis on worship and ministering to the Lord.

I am still technically a “pastor-on-assignment” with The Gathering. However, I am not receiving a salary so my income depends entirely on raised support. It feels like my very first days with the Gathering. Yet, I continue to do what I believe God has called me to, regardless of where I physically live, and trusting Him completely for provision.

Here are the projects I am moving forward on:

1. Many of you know I am authoring a book on the role of Christians and the pastoral pulpit in the founding of America. What did pastors do then? And what should they be doing now? I am currently reading many books and researching hundreds of historical documents on the subject. I am also emerging myself within three leadership networks: *Liberty Pastors*, *Foundations of Freedom*, and *America’s Black Robe Regiment*. All of these groups specialize in my topic of study and they all rightly believe the Church in America had a prominent influence in the foundation of our Nation, our Government, and American society. They also believe pastors today should be involved in discipling the “whole man/woman.” Discipleship means “there is no area in my life that Jesus is NOT Lord.” One favorite resource of mine is Eric Metaxas’s book called “*A Letter to the American Church*.” Eric carries a similar message as he compares a lethargic American Church to the Lutheran Church in 1930’s Germany during the rise of the Third Reich. I am so grateful for his influence, strong message and clear communication to the American Church in these turbulent times. He has become a bit of hero of mine as I write my book. **Please Pray the Lord directs my research and writing.** For those intellectuals out there who would like to have a conversation about this topic, please give me a call. I am always up for a good discussion!

2. I continue to disciple new and non yet-believers, organizing local believers and patriots within the Santa Cruz Freedom Community. I stay networked with groups like

Brave and Free Santa Cruz, Keep Santa Cruz Free, and I am helping to launch a few leaders to teach a “Biblical Citizenship” class from *Patriot Academy*. I am excited to see local Santa Cruz believers and patriots equipped to carry out the Jesus mandate to be salt and light in our society. Many are coming to realize that true biblical discipleship means that Christ is Lord over every area of their lives including how they proactively engage all seven mountains of culture including Media, Education and Government. My goal is to find ways to get this biblical citizenship course into alternative education, Christian and secular schools in our area. Part of my book writing may include curriculum for students and adults. **Please pray for favor and open doors for these initiatives.** I am starting with Santa Cruz, yet I am aware this will be carried to different regions, not just Santa Cruz and not just California, which is very exciting!

3. I have also started painting again and I am receiving mentorship by a local successful artist on how to start a new art business. This is starting slow but I really see God using my work in the future to inspire and awaken people to the reality of humans being made in the image of God as co-creators. I have always wanted to pursue art since my youth but have never been given a window of time to perfect it to a professional level. This sabbatical and transition time has provided that window. **Please pray I grow in my gifts, use them to glorify Jesus in the Art world.**

4. I continue to Co-host a weekly online radio show/podcast and as of today we have broadcasted 100 shows over the last two years! Many of our shows have 700 people listening within one hour broadcast! If you have not heard us please listen, like and subscribe to us out at WakeTheBearRadio.com (WTB). You can find the broadcast links to X (formerly known as Twitter), Facebook, Rumble and Clouthub. We are currently banned from youTUBE but may get back on soon as the media censorship tide is changing.

Each week we look at current events in our State and Nation from a Biblical World view and challenge our listeners to question the mainstream narratives while gaining insight and discernment from the Holy Spirit. Of course we are not always right about everything, but we want to set an example to Christians to use their minds and Godly discernment and not just blindly believe what they hear on their local and national mainstream news/media. WTB continues to be an outreach ministry of The Gathering. Again, please feel free to contact me if you want to hear more and/or are interested in supporting Wake The Bear. **Please Pray for wisdom & discernment in these broadcasts.**

5. This year I have engaged the education arena by speaking publicly at two local school board meetings, graciously asking them not to raise the gay flag over minors in schools. My contention is that it is inappropriate to raise ANY flag other than the State and Country flags on the United States flag pole, as the flags being raised represent authority, control and unity. Now more than ever, we need reminders of what unifies rather than divides us; we are all Americans and we are all Californians. However, we

are **not** all in agreement with projecting and promoting a world view and lifestyle that violates the sincerely held religious and moral beliefs of families and the minors who attend our public schools. You can see the coverage of my protest in the article in the newspaper here. <https://pressbanner.com/san-lorenzo-valley-community-members-stage-protest-over-pride-flag/> **Please pray for additional courage and favor in this area and that I fearlessly proclaim the gospel to those of influence in education and government.**

I continue to be a servant of the Lord, and do what He has called me and my family to do, and will continue to do so no matter where we are physically living! Whether it be California, Texas, or somewhere else, we are called to reach a Nation, no longer just a region. We are back to raising support as missionaries and I am asking you to partner with us in this work, both financially and in prayer. We are still missionaries to California and as my business card says, I am still a “Kingdom Catalyst/Network Planting Pastor” - that has not changed!

A HUGE THANK YOU to all of you who have so graciously supported us to minister to Santa Cruz these so many years. Many of you have been the answer to our prayers for supporters and provision.

If it's on your heart to give to the Lord and His ministry through us, we would be greatly honored. Please consider becoming a partner with us by making a regular monthly gift to The Gathering for the **“Johnson Family Ministry Fund.”** We are happy to receive any support you are able to contribute! All Gifts to us are fully tax deductible and can be made by sending checks to "The Gathering." PO Box 224 Soquel, CA 95073

Or you can give online at www.santacruzgathering.org You can choose Johnson Ministry Fund on the giving page. (see image below) Please know a 2% service fee is taken from your gift.

We really, really appreciate your prayers! So many of you ask how we are, and I can honestly say we are growing in our faith as a family. **Please pray for our ministry and God's continued leading in our lives!**

We will be sending out regular updates and thank you for your consideration and love.

For HIS Glory,

Brandon Johnson, M.Div.

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