

THE THOMAS FAMILY

Serving together since 2016 • Panama

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

-Galatians 6:9-10 (NIV)

Hello again!

Another month has come and gone! As we meditate on Mother’s Day, I think the Bible verse we chose this month can speak to all moms out there, well, really anyone for that matter. As we focus on the special day, as moms, it is easy to grow weary of doing good for our families. Day in and out, we don’t see the fruit quickly of all our efforts to make sure our families are fed, both spiritually and physically, well cared for, and so much more. The list of tasks as moms that we do for our families is lengthy, but I want to encourage you to not give up. There is a reason why the secular world has adopted these words, **“Do not give up.”** That phrase is arguably the foundation of what the American Dream entails. However, don’t lose sight of the core of what those words mean. Yes, don’t give up, but to push through we must do what it says at the beginning of the Bible verse, “Let us not become weary.” To not give up on doing good, we must submit, surrender, unload, and pass over our burdens, heaviness, and any exhaustion or stress over to Jesus. My favorite Bible verse states, “Come to me, all of you who

are tired and have heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Accept my teachings and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit, and you will find rest for your lives. The burden that I ask you to accept is easy; the load I give you to carry is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30). I encourage you, mother or not, to take some time today to do just that. **Go to Jesus and release your heavy loads or any weariness you are experiencing,** especially when doing good for others. You are loved. You are seen. The Lord is waiting for you, always.



A family photo of us visiting Arizona last month then went to Texas after to visit family and supporters.

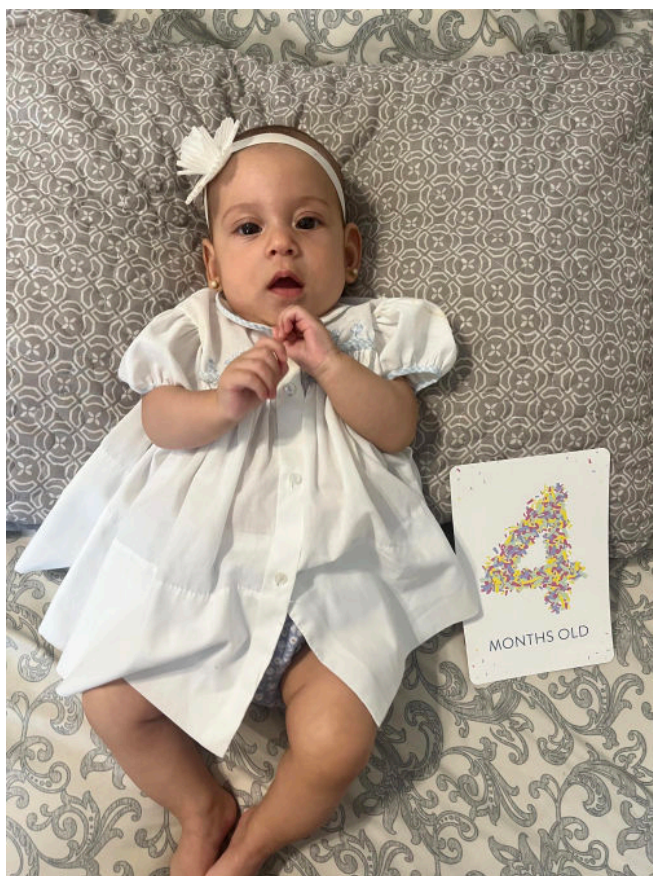
As for ministry updates, we have been able to successfully get our employees, Santiago and Yulianna, and their family religious visas. It was a tedious process with a long list of specific documents we needed to either obtain, create, or apostille, but thanks be to God for getting it done. They are now able to open a bank account in the country, get their Panamanian driver’s license, and more! We meet with Santi and Yuil weekly going over a book regarding the Great Commission. It has been an excellent time of fellowship and refocusing on our purpose here in Panama and building these children’s homes. This will serve as a foundation for how our ministry operates.

As for family updates, we just can't get over how adorable our baby girl is! We are so in love! Children are truly a blessing from the Lord. It is a lot of work but always worth it! Esther Lily is now four months old and will be turning five months at the end of this month. She has been so eager to sit up, with support of course, and has been rolling from her stomach to her back too. As for Noah, we are excited to share he will be starting PK-4 at the end of August. After much prayer, wise counsel, and the Lord's provision, we decided a school setting was best for him for many reasons. He has thrived in my homeschool, and it was encouraging to hear the school's academic advisor say he is advanced for his age. However, the social aspect, as it is for most Covid-19 babies, has been lacking, and we think he would equally thrive in a more formal school setting. Finally, our Ezra is speaking more and more words every day! I love how he asks me often, "Mommy, what that mean?" He has a hunger to learn more, and he also loves doing school with me. Also, Ezra has been especially motivated to be potty trained, which is encouraging! He wants to be just like his big brother Noah!

To wrap things up, for the past few newsletters this year, I have intentionally shared that we are praying for you and your family, and if you have any prayer requests, do not hesitate to reach out to us so we can better pray for you.

We would like to end with this blessing which we will be praying over your lives and your family's lives this month, "May your love abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:9-11, NIV)

- Stephen, Kendra, Noah, Ezra, & Esther Lily



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Thank you for partnering with **Stephen Jr & Kendra Thomas** in seeing His Kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven! Thank you for your gifts and prayers.

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