## United by Grace...Led by Spirit...Together by Promise...

Trusting His Purpose





When last we left you, the summer of 2010, Frank was on the hunt for a second part-time job, and we were struggling to crawl out under the wreckage of an insurance policy gone bad. What came next blind-sided us, to say the least...fire in our apartment building. It began in the electrical closet of one of twelve floors, opposite the elevators, and quickly spread upward and downward, forcing all in the building to evacuate, and resulting in the immediate 2-week displacement of all residents, including us.

Having happened upon the news while with family in WI, we were, nonetheless, very concerned, not only for our home and belongings, but also for the friends we knew, young and old, we had come to know, while living there. By God's grace, thankfully, no lives were lost and no permanent damage was done. However, until reconstruction and emergency system retrofitting was completed (just days prior to the start of classes), we were treated to the cozy accommodations of what came to be dubbed "Camp Smith" (Smith Hall dormitories, adjacent to the main campus buildings). While a bit cramped, we were grateful, both to have somewhere in which to sleep, as well as for the meals Moody provided us free of charge, during our stay. Though this served to throw off our regular communications with you, it thankfully did not jeopardize Frank's preparation for fall classes.

During that same semester, we enjoyed weekend walks and bike treks. One such trek led us to discover the beauty and joy of Batavia, St. Charles and Geneva, IL. Though overcast for the most part, the scenery and slower pace of this area was no less relaxing. How often we miss God's miracles in creation when we keep going at such a racing pace!

Over the course of the next year, we would make other exciting excursions, to the Jelly Belly warehouse, in Pleasant Prairie, WI; Port Washington, WI and also down to GA and AL, to visit Frank's family for the Christmas holidays. We would take more walks down Navy Pier, experience the "Taste of Chicago" for the first time and even witness the filming of "Transformers 3: Dark of the Moon" downtown.

Meanwhile, Melissa would continue to become more involved with the Student Wives Fellowship, here at Moody, while working part-time at a bed and breakfast, just down the street from Moody. Top among blessings for her, though, would come in December of 2010, when she was hired as the new Assistant Administrator to the Dean of Students! Both have afforded her the opportunity to speak into the lives of students and spouses alike, all while in a community that is both affirming and spiritually fulfilling. I'm so honored to be her husband!

Beginning September that same year, Frank resumed his practical Christian ministry position as volunteer to the men of Pacific Garden Mission, moving from the preaching team to "Office B," where sharing the gospel is done one-on-one. Feeling a stirring to do even more, in October, he began to seek out advice and prospective sponsors for the organizing of a support group for Moody student men struggling in their growth to manhood (this would later become a reality, in the form of individual mentorships to younger men). In-between classwork, Frank also labored to complete a video archiving project (about 20 VHS tapes to DVD) he had contracted to do for a fellow student. Although knocked off course a little by the fire, he was able to deliver the completed package in time for the student's Christmas with his family, January of the following year. Job-wise, over the course of the past 2 years has seen Frank working in a variety of positions: from WMBI News Assistant, to Moody Alumni Web Associate, an intern to a Producer of the Morning Ride at 90.1FM, and this fall (his final semester of classes at Moody) he will be assuming the role of Assistant to a dean in Career Development. All three fit very nicely into Frank's career track as an Electronic Media Communications major, and all have/will afford him hands on experience in various forms of communications which he will then be able to use following graduation.

Financially, God is gracious and faithful, meeting insurance needs before we even know we need them, as well as providing for both our housing and health needs. Last summer, we were so thankful for the peace of Christ amidst a very difficult time trying to regulate Frank's ADHD medications, which lasted nearly eight months (and even included an unexpected trip to the emergency room). During this time of testing, both Frank and Melissa were led closer to the love of Christ and nearer to each other, in ways neither would have ever imagined! By God's grace, both have emerged from under that cloud, and with the help of licensed therapists, began this year to experience emotional and spiritual rebirth from the inside out. We are grateful for your prayers, while on this journey of truth.

In closing, we presently find ourselves entertaining not one, but a few crossroads, desiring and seeking God's guidance with each. Some are financial, some professional, others personal. All are important and none of them will succeed without the wisdom of our Lord (Psalm 32:8-9). We ask you only to continue lifting us up to Him daily, that not only will He guide us, but that He will also provide. In turn, please know our ear is here to hear you, whatever your need or however you wish to share a praise.

We encourage you all to look us up on <u>Facebook</u>. You may also continue to <u>email</u> or call us, as well (if you do not yet have our number, email us and we'll be glad to give it to you). Until next time...

Celissa Toy Rin

Still...we're trusting.

Always In His Love,

http://joyinthejourney.synthasite.com/