



Ganson Street Baptist Church <church@gansonstreet.org>

Becky's Update

2 messages

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Sun, May 28, 2023 at 10:36 AM

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I've just returned to the Far West.....finally. At least that's the way it feels. It ended up being about 5 weeks in the city. All the process to renew my research, get the right paperwork, and then finally get a new visa actually did end up taking a full month. Guess I shouldn't be surprised, but it still seemed a bit crazy with all the confluence of the right person being gone several times, and the fact that no-one else seems to be able to do what needs to be done without them. I'd totally wear you out telling about all the crazy delays, extra trips for crazy reasons, and fighting (basically unsuccessfully) the bureaucratic sludge. I think our dad was having a good chuckle a few times. Like when I had decided on sharing an encouraging devotional with our group that was about giving thanks and praise even in the midst of the unexpected problems and difficulties. And then of course, I end up literally slogging through the mud back and forth and having to make a trip all the way across town because my Advisor hadn't put a stamp on the letter. Kind of had no choice but to try giving

thanks at that point, did I?

But, in the end I did get another full year for my research and a year of new visa. Since, that's the most important thing, I can't complain. I certainly also realized how fortunate I had been to be able to avoid the Immigration Department for the previous 5 years. It was a grueling 2 days of process and run around that I don't look forward to returning to every year. Technically we should still be able to get a 5 year visa as a US citizen, but that seems to be only on paper now, and they have found plenty ways of getting around it.

You may remember that I got Covid on my arrival to the city. It wasn't too bad, although I was down for a week and almost 2 before I really felt I was able to function well again. I guess I can give thanks that the person I needed paperwork from was actually gone almost that whole time, so being sick didn't really slow down the process. I have continued to struggle with sinus congestion since even before I traveled in. It has been an especially long haul this year. Then, I ended up with another respiratory infection kicking in right after I actually got my visa. I figure it was a virus caught from the big crowd that I waited hours along with in Immigration. :-) I waited until recouped well before traveling. But, wouldn't you know, the next night after my travels I ended up with really bad diarrhea, so was again down for several days. Still trying to get back to full energy.

Unfortunately, my research partner (T.D.) has also continued to struggle with several different health issues, and is still too weak to be able to face all the walking that is needed for my research survey. We had hoped to do it this past weekend. Because his problems have been quite long-term, it's not likely he will be well enough real soon either. Also, we should be starting monsoon season within a few weeks, although they are predicting a light season this year. So, we probably can't do it for a while now. At least getting the full year renewal gives me plenty of time now, so it's not as much of a rush. Please do be praying for a return to health for T.D., including wisdom as to whether he needs to travel into the city for some better evaluation. The situation at home is not easy either for several reasons, so help me seek His grace for everything that is going on.

I feel like I'm just getting settled back in. Now, I need to face having my house painted. It has gotten really bad, and again, should be done before monsoons. While I won't do the work, it is quite a job to help and keep track of the painters to be sure things don't get totally messed up. The landlord doesn't live here, so

it is up to me to manage the job. Not looking forward to it, but it sure will be nice to have the walls in better shape. It's definitely not looking very nice right now.



While I didn't get the view these trips, I am still so thankful for to be able to do the trip by plane and save so much time and wear and tear. I still have a 4 hour road trip on top of it, but way better than the other options.

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Ganson Street Baptist Church <church@gansonstreet.org>

Thu, Jun 1, 2023 at 11:30 AM

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