

## THE LATEST FROM THE FORDS @ BARAKEL

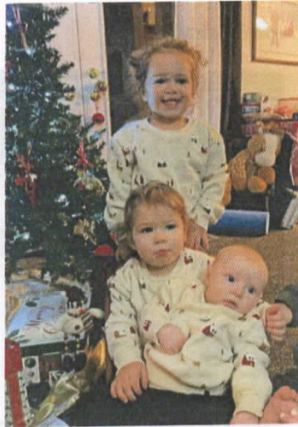
Our hearts overflow with gratitude as we recount the Lord's faithfulness these last many months! Thank you so much for your prayers, love, and support that you have shown us this year. It is a great gift that we have from the Lord – your partnership in this Gospel ministry with us.

Prior to our Summer Staff Workshop (training) in mid-May, we lacked people in many areas – who would serve in leadership roles, who could step in to counsel the weeks we were short, who would be the speaker one specific week, who would run this activity area, etc. But God knew! We had to be creative some weeks, while several other weeks the Lord allowed more kids to attend despite being on the waiting lists! Amazing!

As always, it was a joy to see the growth in the lives of the young adults the Lord provided each week – learning how to wrangle 8 campers all week long while also discerning how to speak truth from God's word into their lives in just 5 short days. Those who counseled discovered some of their weaknesses and saw how Jesus became strong for them or learned they indeed had a "mom" voice to help their girls move from silliness to talking about the Bible or "tasting and seeing" that spending so much time in God's Word was delightful and rewarding. Those who served in other ways learned to lead their peers AND build relationships with them or gained some valuable tools for managing several different schedules while learning the value of teamwork.

We must show a picture of our 3 grandchildren.... and we rejoice with the news of more on the way in 2024! 😊

(Eleanor – 2 ½ yrs., Abigail – 14 mo., Raegan 3 mo.)



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This fall we spent our time meeting with our 7 seasonal staff (Tuesday lunch and Wednesday evening Bible study in Acts), preparing for weekend retreats, hosting in chapels (Stacy for the Ladies and Jon running the sound), keeping the Trading Post stocked, cheering Samuel on at XC meets despite shin splints and a sore ankle (he managed to finish on the 1<sup>st</sup> team All-Conference!) but missed the regional race to try to qualify for his last XC State meet. (Found out he tore some ligaments in his ankle and had a stress fracture.). Thankfully, it is mostly healed, and he is participating in basketball.

### Prayer Requests:

- Continued healing for Samuel's ankle and continued patience
- Provision of workers seasonally and resident staff: Katelyn, Ari, Isaac – new RMS appointees; an AVS coordinator to ease Jon's workload.
- Family: involvement in their local churches, desire to study God's word to teach it to others, discernment in their jobs, spiritual fortitude in parenting, time together despite distance.
- Winter workers, snow and cold weather, interest in 2024 summer staff.

Merry Christmas,

Jon & Stacy Ford



Natalie + Jonathan  
Dunn (ky)