

Hello Friends!

We have big news! We are now a family of 6! Elsie Eve Watters was born on April 2 at 1:08 am here in Costa Rica. She weighed 8 lbs 2 oz and was 20 inches long. She has been an absolute blessing and we are in love :) The labor and birth was quite the experience and more than once we wished we were back at the Pella Regional Hospital in the US where our others were born. However, we have been blessed with a beautiful and healthy baby girl who has been a perfect fit in our family. Now to figuring out how to survive with 4 children 6 years old and under in a foreign country no less!



We continue to search for ways to grow our community on campus. It seems as if each week we meet a new student and experience God's goodness in unexpected ways. Just the other day I met with Mariela our student leader to prep a bible study from John 3 on Nicodemus. When we arrived on campus there were lots of open tables to sit at and one table with a student at it. I felt like the Holy Spirit was encouraging me to sit by her, though we did not know her. We started our study and as the girl overheard us she asked who we were. We told her that we were a new Christian group on campus called ECU. She told us her name was María and her pastor yesterday spoke on Nicodemus at church and she felt like us sitting down and studying the same passage was an invitation from the Lord to get involved! To God be the glory.

I also had the opportunity to go on a true Costa Rican adventure. Our city is found at the base of the tallest mountain in Costa Rica, Chirripó. I thought it would neat to invite a few students I didn't know well and go climb the thing! One was a strong Christian that I had wanted to get involved with our community and the other two were not believers. It turned out to be a bigger trip that I could have ever imagined and included 10,000 feet of elevation gain to the peak, an overnight stay at a base camp at 11,000 ft and more than 30 miles of hiking in two days. It was as amazing as it was painful :) The four of us entered the trail strangers and left as friends. We had lots of significant conversations about family, faith and what we desire our lives to be about. My heart broke as one shared about his broken relationship with his demanding father but I had the chance to speak truth into him of his loving Heavenly Father who is so very proud of him. As we watched the sunrise from the summit, my heart praised God for His goodness, His beauty and His ever-present presence in our lives.



School is starting back up after a break for Holy Week. We have a number of activities planned in the coming weeks. Would you pray with us as we sit in scripture with students, invite them to this community on campus and reach out searching for the next person the Lord will invite into our lives.

As we celebrate the risen Lord, we pray that you will be filled with hope for what he has done for us, that the living God came not to condemn the world but to save it and that we are free to live transformed by His grace and mercy.

Blessings,

Joel, Rachel, Lucy, Charles, Annie and Elsie

