

Planting in the Desert

A monthly newsletter from the Austin family

August 2025

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Camelback church of Christ

Country Club church of Christ

Creskide church of Christ

Crosstown church of Christ

Decatur church of Christ

Frisco church of Christ

Gold Canyon church of Christ

Hico church of Christ

League City church of Christ

North Valley church of Christ

Northside church of Christ

Salt River church of Christ

Sunset church of Christ

Westhill church of Christ

& many generous individuals

We send our prayers and thanksgivings for all you continue to do in the kingdom. Blessings to you and your families.

We are back into the groove after all the travels in July. It is nice to be home, but the catch-up is always a little hectic. I am grateful that we didn't have to deal with any jet lag.

As soon as we got home from Peru, Alyssa drove back to Tennessee to start practicing with the team. Thankfully, she did not have any problems but was drained from the back-to-back long trips. She has now started school and their team has been doing well.

Not long after, Aaliyah also headed back to El Paso to resume work and prepare for school. She is excited to finish out this year, although "senioritis" is already starting to kick in. Please keep her in your prayers as she seeks wisdom on the next steps after graduation.

Alayna and Josiah have also started back to school, and volleyball has begun again. Alayna is playing her final season for Mountain View, while Josiah is in his sophomore season playing sand volleyball for the first time at the same school. Josiah is also playing indoor club volleyball this fall, which practices a couple of times a week. Super busy, but he is enjoying it, all!

As a congregation, we finished studying through 1, 2, & 3 John after several months. Ezekiel and Russ have carried a significant portion of the load while I was away. I am grateful for their zeal and ability to share God's word. We have now started a new series of lessons working through the book of Judges. We are also sprinkling in a few lessons on how to study the Bible independently. We want to seek for truth and study accurately because as we see in the book of Judges, everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

Alayna and I traveled to Morenci, AZ to visit my parents and also speak for the church. They have been long-time and generous supporters of our family and all the missions we have been associated with. It was nice to spend time with family. The other three kids had some time with grandparents this summer, but this was Alayna's first opportunity.

Divine and I celebrated our 25th anniversary! Since we just returned from a big trip, we took a "staycation." We stayed at a small boutique hotel in Scottsdale for a few nights. It was homey, and we enjoyed eating out at some new restaurants, visiting the aquarium (which we really enjoyed), and even catching a movie. Nothing huge, but it was nice and we are grateful to our Lord for blessing us over this past quarter-century. I would ask for your prayers that He may continue to bless, protect, and strengthen us as we strive to honor Him in all that we do.

Ezekiel and Julie are doing a good job adjusting to the move, the new ministry, and the new baby. Ezekiel was finally approved to enter the DOC with me. He seems to really enjoy this experience. We meet weekly and he works hard at balancing family, ministry, and personal responsibilities. He has also been able to get on campus and the Lord is opening doors for him as he learns what a campus ministry could look like. Chase, a young brother at ASU, has been going with Ezekiel to a few of the visits. Please keep praying for them and this area of evangelism. ♥