

July 2010

Greetings to you,

We're still trekking! A couple weeks ago in June we crossed over an important milestone. It was a year ago on June 20th, 2009 that we were formally invited to join the staff of FamilyLife. And coming up at the end of September we will cross another milestone of one year since being commissioned as missionaries with Campus Crusade for Christ and officially beginning our support raising.

Little did we know last June what that would look like for us a year later.

Last June our twins had just begun to take their first steps; this year it's hard to catch them sometimes. All of our girls are taller, have longer hair, and have continued to develop physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Last year I, Abraham, only thought I knew what busy was. I had various duties at our church as the Associate Pastor, was working at Ecom as a service technician, and trying to balance all that with my roles as husband and father. Today, I'm still doing all those things in addition to adding about 15-20 hours/week in phone calls, appointments, travel time, reports, and other ministry duties associated with our support raising.

It certainly has been a busy time for us, particularly the last 10 months since we began our support raising. In fact, a few weeks after we began this "new normal" busy lifestyle Deborah commented to me this whole busy-ness isn't going to stop until we're ready to move to Arkansas. We rarely schedule appointments beyond two weeks ahead, but we do know that 4 weeks, 8 weeks, or even 5 months from now we will still be busy raising support if we haven't completed it by then.

Perhaps last year we were naive to feel like we were going to be the first couple to finish the process in only 3 months, despite our trainers telling us that it usually takes a family 18-24 months to complete their support. So although here we are 10 months later with just over 33% of our support raised and 2/3rds left to go, we know that God knows what he's doing. (For those wondering, that puts us into Wyoming on our "Road to Arkansas" map)

During the month of June we had to realistically look at our supporter list and trim away those who had intentions to keep their commitments but for whatever reason weren't able to follow through. So, honestly, it's been tough to not be discouraged about how quickly (or slowly) our progress has been going. We do now feel like we have a more accurate idea of how much solid support we actually do have and feel like we can progress from there.



Anna  
(9)



Danielle  
(8)



Julia  
(6)



Rachel  
(3)



Sarah  
(2)



Naomi  
(2)



**(our 4 oldest took swimming lessons this month)**

- **Anna:** learned how to swim under water
- **Danielle:** overcame her fear of putting her head under water by saying to herself, "God is with me!"
- **Julia:** loves floating on her back in the pool

- **Rachel:** enjoys screaming, "there's Arkansas!" every time she sees a Verizon map of the United States
- **Sarah & Naomi:** loved seeing the fireworks this year and cooking marshmallows over a campfire.

Although our progress in increased monthly support has taken a slower pace recently, we praise God that he still is providing for us in other ways. On weeks that we don't have as many appointments we get time to spend with our kids or to catch up in other areas of life. He also continues to confirm our call through couples/churches who have been able to give a special needs gift even though they haven't been able to make monthly commitments. In the last three months we've seen over \$5500 of such donations come in to support our ministry.

We continue to remind ourselves that our primary purpose during this time in our lives is to minister to couples and families that we meet and leave the results about support in God's hands. And we are confident that He will provide in His timing, and not a moment sooner. Although if there's any way to pray and sway the hand of God to cause us to finish our support raising sooner, we'd gladly accept those prayers and that blessing. :)

Through all of this though we are more sure of our calling to FamilyLife. We are continually reminded of the need for the ministry of FamilyLife to marriages and families. We are constantly amazed at God's provision and confirmation of this calling on our lives every time a new supporter joins our team. And that's what keeps us going.

Once again thank you for your words of encouragement, your prayers, your financial support, and your investment into our lives and the marriages and families of those we are reaching.

Fighting for families,



Abraham & Deborah Lara

#### Prayer Requests:

- That we would manage our time wisely between work, home, kids, our marriage, support raising, church, etc.
- For God's favor on our lives and ministry as we continue to meet with people week after week.
- For continued trust in the Lord as he provides in his timing.
- For us to break through at least 50% of our support goal by the end of the summer.