

THE ONKENS

Covid & a new Car

Three days into our staff conference our son Theo tested positive for Covid. Knowing we'd all probably get Covid, we quickly rearranged our travel plans to try and get us all to Florida as soon as possible. Dave's parents drove our three older kids who were in MN to Wisconsin and then we started our 20 hour road trip to Florida. God was so gracious in giving us a smooth trip with a two year old! and several of us symptomatic. It took us three days to get home but we were so thankful to be home. We're all feeling much better.

Because we got Covid, we had to cancel our trip to Stevens Point, WI and we missed seeing many of you.

One of the things we focused on once we were home was buying a second car. In our 14 years of marriage, we've never owned two cars.



Cru Orlando, FL

Cru's 2022 Staff Conference

At the end of July we attended our staff conference in Milwaukee, WI. Normally, we meet every other year but because of Covid, it had been three years since our last gathering.

It was a rich time of refreshing our vision for the mission of reaching the nations with the good news of Jesus Christ, worshipping in community and connecting with dear friends.

Though our time was cut short due to us getting Covid (see the note on the left), we are thankful for all God did during our time.

Hearing testimonies from men and women around the world encountering Jesus for the first time and now holding out the message of hope in Jesus to others brings tears every time. Singing the Blessing (I love the Kari Jobe version of the song) with thousands of believers and praying "May His favor be upon you and a thousand generations and your family and your children and their children..." felt like a nation crying out for wholeness and God's mercy. Laughing with my former roommates from Toulouse, France and our now husbands was the sweetest of gifts from our Heavenly Father. We also stayed in the downtown part of Milwaukee and it was so fun to live an urban life again: walking to work, admiring interesting architecture, eating diverse foods and experiencing different cultures. Overall, it was a powerful, soul-refreshing time.

Thank you for ministering with us and supporting us in the mission God has called us to. We love what we get to do and getting to do it alongside you!



Onken Family Prayer Calendar September 2022



Left: Learning about non-edible ginger and other FL plants.



Right: Chloe learning to make biscuits. She's so eager to help and learn.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Chloe starts speech therapy again to work on age appropriate articulation	Reconnection and fun as a family.	God would guide us in how to minister to our neighbors who are hurting
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Our pastor & his wife would be filled with God's strength to serve and minister	God would provide a new children's ministry director at our church	Praise God Theo likes pre-school! He made a friend "Rice" (Bryce) :)	For the participants to feel and see God's love	For kindness, laughter and God's healing during our small group meeting	For God to show Dave and I how to invest intentionally in our marriage during this season	For good continual conversations with our kids about baptism
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
We'd play and rest well with our kids	We'd have renewed vision for lifelong living for the Lord & make daily choices to walk with Him	Praise God for the scholarship we received for our girls- it'll pay for tutoring & speech therapy!!	The Holy Spirit would deepen the kids' faith during their homeschool co-op time	Praise God for Lexie's progress in reading. Huge connections were made this summer!	For joy, focus and encouragement as we homeschool.	Pray for more families to move into our neighborhood. We've had many move this last year...
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
...and would love more kids to come over and play.	The week would start of filled with grace as we start a new week of school	God's wisdom for what book of the Bible to study next	Large group meeting David leads. Pray we find people who can help lead worship during the time	Pray for our childcare during the large group meeting. We have a new person in...	...charge of it and it's a lot of work. Pray for wisdom and grace as she sets it up	Our kids would grow to love Christ more than we ever do & love others well
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Our home would be a place of rest for many	Pray for our neighbors to find and love Christ.	God would show us how to discipline and connect with each our kids	Praise God for the ballet ministry our girls get to be apart of	Full recovery for an extended family member who is having back surgery	Many hands to help make our women's retreat a huge blessing for the participant women.	