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# The Brink Connection

Spring 2011



## FamilyLife Weekend to Remember

I've recently had the chance to do some work with our FamilyLife ministry on the web front, helping with their online registration system for the conferences and helping them provide some of their DVD and print materials to people through our online store. Shannon and I loved our time at a FamilyLife "Weekend to Remember" marriage conference a few years ago, and it's always encouraging to hear about how my behind-the-scenes work is helping this ministry touch lives by God's grace. Here are a few recent quotes from FamilyLife conference attendees:

*"We came to this conference separated and in a state of complete brokenness. I know the road to recovery is long and winding, but this weekend helped to give us a renewed sense of hope and focus on God. Alone we can't do it, but with God we believe anything is possible."* -wife married 6 years

*"This conference was a gift from God at a desperate time in a marriage on the brink of ending"* -husband

*"We were in dire straits and barely hanging on. Now I have so much hope because I feel like we have the tools to make it work."* -wife married 9 years

*"We are newlyweds so this conference really helped us to lay the foundation for a godly and healthy marriage."* -husband married 1 year

(Check out [www.familylifecanada.com](http://www.familylifecanada.com) for more information, or to register for a conference yourself!)

## What else am I up to?

Stories like this are what inspire me to keep pressing on with what I'm doing. In addition to working with FamilyLife, here are just a few of the other projects that I've been busy with lately:

- Helping GAIIN, our humanitarian ministry, with a database system they use to track different water well drilling projects in Africa
- Developing and setting up a new database system for our HR department to allow them to better care for our staff
- Communicating with our front-line ministry staff across the country to help them understand the

different services our IT department can offer them to assist them in their work

Thank you for your faithful partnership that allows me to serve in this way!

## Biblical Studies

When Shannon and I left Burkina Faso after our 6 month mission there, we came away with a few things. One of them was a sense that we enjoyed serving God cross-culturally, and would be very open to doing that again in the future. Another was the encouragement that an important next step should be to take further biblical training. Neither Shannon nor I have been to Bible school, although we've taken some short biblical courses through church programs, small groups, and ministry organizations. My IT skills and Shannon's nursing skills are ones that are often used in behind-the-scenes service roles in mission work, but we recognize that we need to be equipped to share God's word effectively too, wherever we go. As 2 Tim 2:15 says, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

As we've been thinking and praying about how to pursue more in-depth training, God presented a great opportunity. Campus Crusade for Christ in the US (the US equivalent of Power to Change in Canada) runs an Institute of Biblical Studies for 4 weeks every summer, in partnership with several different seminaries. We have a number of friends who have gone before, and given the training high recommendation. The format is ideal for us: short, intensive courses, where we can give it our focused attention. They have child care available, so Shannon will be able to participate fully as well. I've gotten approval from my director at Power to Change to do this as part of my ongoing ministry development, and we are really looking forward to it! We'll be at IBS in Fort Collins, Colorado, from mid-June to mid-July. Please pray that this would be a time of renewing our passion for God's word, and growing in our walks with Him!

## On the Home Front (by Shannon)

### Our Church

In January, our Church kicked off its new Sunday evening service and it has been enormously successful. Called 'Night Church,' it is led by and aimed at a younger crowd and has some interesting elements to it. The service starts with coffee and mingling time, the music is livelier, there is artwork at the front, announcements and formalities are kept succinct,



*Our volunteers at the Gateway of Hope*

and we have communion weekly. We also have a Q & A time with the pastor after the sermon whereby anyone can text in their questions and the pastor will answer them. As part of this body, Jason and I are responsible to help our congregation think missionally. To do that, we organize outreaches and challenge our night church community to take steps of faith to reach out to those around them in their community. So far we took a small group of volunteers to a homeless shelter in Langley called the Gateway of Hope and this next month we are working with our larger Church body to bless the single moms in our community. There will be meals for them to take home, children's activities, car washing, oil changes, haircuts and family portraits that will all be offered to them for free. We're very excited to be part of helping our community serve outside their comfort zone!

### Our Dreams

So, you may be asking, what are we planning to do in the future? Why IBS? Why all this talk about missions? Jason and I are still passionate about missions and that is partially why we have chosen to be part of organizing local missions out-

### Prayer Requests:

- That Shannon's sleep would continue to get better
- Safe travels this summer to Fort Collins for IBS, as well as to Jason's staff conference (we'll likely be going to Saskatoon) and possibly to Dawson Creek to see family
- Our involvements at Church: that we will continue to develop leadership skills in our areas of ministry and would see fruit in the lives of the congregation.
- For our future and dreams- that God would continue to clarify what He is calling us to and that we would be obedient to that call.

### To Donate:

Go to [powertochange.org](http://powertochange.org), click on "Donate", and type "Brink" in the Donation search.

reaches for our Night Church community, as well as why we sit on the missions board at our Church. Our short term dream, would be to lead a short term missions trip through our Church in the next number of years. Neither of



*Meeting our new nephew, Titus*

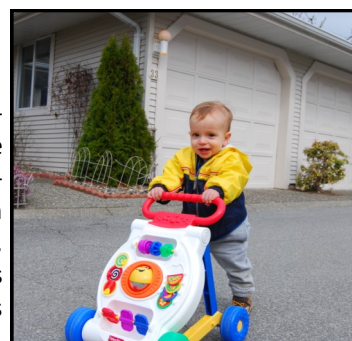
us have ever led a team and we would love to be part of helping our congregations' eyes be opened to the needs overseas. We are also still willing and open to the Lord's leading for us to be on the mission field long term. For now, we are taking steps of obedience to do some Bible School training and will see where that leads us!

### Our health

As many of you know, I have had sleep issues since Silas' birth. It's been a hard year, and an especially hard number of months, but I am finally sleeping without sleeping medication! In fact, my sleep has had a dramatic improvement over the last couple of weeks after I received many of your urgent prayers as well as the prayers of those at our Church. I have been learning so much about God's grace through longsuffering and lately have experienced the power of God's word to calm fears and anxieties. I am clinging to His word each night, meditating on it while I fall asleep, which has helped me immensely to let go of worries about if I will or won't fall asleep. I have had many nights of great sleep (praise GOD!) I am also seeing a sleep specialist and a counselor to help me recognize what other factors may be contributing to this insomnia.

### Our son

Silas has definitely transitioned into being a little toddler. He is FULL of energy and loves to run around with his walker. And, just this past week, he has started to take steps on his own! He also likes to dance, practice somersaults with daddy, and go up and down the stairs. He recently got to try riding on the back of daddy's bike (which he loved) and continues to love going for long walks in the neighbourhood. He's started saying words like 'up' and 'mama' and 'more' along with his constant jabbering! We're loving this time of constant development and exploration but are more than often exhausted by the end of the day chasing him around!



Yours in Christ,

*Jason, Shannon, and Silas*