



Innovative Truth

Bringing Scripture to Life

August 2022

Dear friend,

The old saying, "If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plan," is feeling very apropos.

A year ago we shared our intention to move to OKC so we could better assist my dad who has been diagnosed with Alzheimers. Our chief desire was to renovate a rental home my maternal grandfather built in OKC, allowing us to be next to Dad. To make this happen, we started raising up leaders in San Antonio to facilitate the 12 small groups working with Innovative Truth, according to 2 Timothy 2:2.

You have partnered with Innovative Truth for a very long time. So please know my heart when I say with love, discipleship can be messy. Over the past year, some leaders jumped in beautifully, others have struggled. Some directly said, "I'm only doing this while you and Tonya are out of town." It's true with adults, as on college campus; there can be a lot of resistance to accepting God's call. It was imperative we never let anyone in San Antonio feel abandoned while we were attempting to build ministry in OKC. God kept His hand right on top of us during the transition. More to come in the next letter, but today we'd like to share the timeline of God's detour to our plan.

Last fall we sold a San Antonio rental home allowing us to take advantage of an unexpected opportunity to purchase a small house across the street from the home we were renovating in OKC. This was a blessing since the original plan to build on the empty lot (inherited after my mother's passing) suddenly became way too expensive. The house needed a lot of work. We were able to get a deal, but we knew it was mostly work we'd do ourselves. That's right folks, we then found ourselves renovating two houses

simultaneously. Yikes! We do not recommend this type of undertaking and often cannot believe all we've accomplished.

In the meantime, we had a buyer for Tonya's home in SA. After a few months of preparing for that sale, the buyers decided to go in another direction. It was about then we, along with Eddie and his doctors, recognized the Alzheimers had progressed. It became necessary for us to be in SA with Eddie's doctors. Tonya was still getting treatment here, and we wanted to assist the small groups requesting guidance. The sale of Tonya's home falling through became a gift allowing us a place to stay for those months. We realized Eddie would be best cared for in a retirement community that offers assistance as needed, yet gives him a place of his own with a lively group of residents sharing their days. Eddie having a routine was a more loving option rather than awaiting the slow moving train of house renovations.

After much searching, God ultimately led us to a lovely community in OKC just six miles from the small house we purchased. With Julia's help, we were able to get Eddie moved in and assist him in the transition. Sadly, both of Eddie's surviving brothers have passed in 2022. Yet because we listened to God, Eddie was in the right place to be able to spend time with his family. He continues to visit with his sister. He is doing very well and thriving as he makes new friends and settles into his church.

More to come, but thank you for the love and prayers as we split our time between two cities striving to make the main thing, the main thing.

With all our love,

