

THE COX FAMILY NEWSLETTER

JAN 2017



2016 IN REVIEW

Joys

2016 was Paul's and Donna's first year of full time teaching and writing at Africa Theological Seminary (ATS - www.atseminary.ac.ke). It was a great joy to “jump in” and get our “hands dirty.” Paul was able to teach six Bible and Theology classes. As always when teaching Paul felt that he learned more than his students. Donna and the ATS faculty were able to get the Children's Ministry Certificate off the ground. For years ATS has wanted to have a Children's Ministry Certificate program and with Donna's help they started it in 2016. In addition to getting the scope and sequence of the children's ministry in place, Donna was able to write and teach one of the new courses Children's Evangelism.

Another joy of 2016 is our church started fasting and praying weekly. It was the pastor's wife cancer and the study of Acts that prompted this. While God did not heal her, He did work miraculously in that the removal surgery went very well and she will not need chemo. The fasting and prayer has continued being a great joy.

Nehemiah was able to join the rest of the Cox family in Kenya for the last three months of 2016. He was between school and his next life step. It was great to have him in Kenya for Christmas.

Annoyances

A couple of weeks ago Paul was sharpening a knife using a friend's knife sharpener. He did not have his thumb properly behind the guard and cut his thumb. A few days later he was removing a battery from an uninterruptible power supply and as he slid the battery out his fingers ran against the sharp frame and he sliced two fingers on each hand. At one point in time he had band aids on five fingers. Miriam asked if dad had become a cutter. Despite his best efforts to keep these cuts clean, one cut became infected. Fortunately none of these cuts were very deep or serious and the infection was minor. However, Paul was amazed at the increased difficulty of the most simple tasks. Like typing with cuts on five of your ten digits or washing your hands or doing dishes.

In reflecting on 2016, it was much like these cuts on Paul's fingers. Nothing major went wrong in 2016, but there were a bunch of small annoyances that seemed to make the most simple tasks much more difficult. An honest mistake made out of ignorance on Paul's work permit application has caused untold frustration and has consumed many days. In January upon returning to Kenya after furlough Paul and Donna found a small house that was in the final stages of construction. It was promised to be finished in three weeks. Two months later we moved in. Changing Internet Service Providers turned into a three month ordeal and the new service and speed was not that much better. It should have taken six to eight weeks to ship Paul's motorcycle to Kenya, instead it took 294. Plus a number of other things.

One more annoyance from 2016 is our mailing list developed significant problems and correcting it caused this January letter to arrive in February.

2017 the Resolutions and What's Ahead

One of the areas where the annoyances of 2016 cut into was communication with friends and supporters. Hence, one of the key New Year's resolutions for the Cox Family is to communicate more. Lord willing you will be hearing from us more in 2017. (Sorry that we were not better at this in 2016.)

Another resolution is for Paul to get caught up with his PhD. The annoyances have been a significant distraction for Paul's PhD work. Lord willing 2017 is the year to catch up. (2019 is the planned graduation date.)

Donna is working on a children's Walk Thru the Bible curriculum for use in African churches. She will also continue to work on developing more courses for the new Children's Ministry Certificate at ATS. Paul will continue to teach and write.

The major life change for our family in 2017 will be Micah Joy graduating from Rift Valley Academy. She has been accepted to her top two schools, Oklahoma State University and Texas A&M. Pray for her senior year and the choices and transitions ahead.



Praises

- A good first year at ATS
- A church that fasts and prays
- Having Nehemiah in Kenya for three months
- Living close to our girls
- Nehemiah has a new job in Dallas

Prayer

- Need additional support
- Nehemiah as he starts life in Dallas
- Micah Joy and Miriam as they finish high school (2017 & 2018 respectively)
- Continued issues with immigration
- That the Cox Family will be faithful

HOW DO I GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU?

Email is almost always the best way to get in touch with Paul and Donna.

- ▶ family@cox-net.com
- ▶ +1 972 695 5327 (leave a message and we will get back with you)
- ▶ www.thecoxfamily.org
- ▶ facebook.com/thecoxfamily.org

SUPPORT OPPORTUNITY

Paul and Donna's support is low (they need an addition 1,200 per month). Please pray that God would provide additional funds. If God is leading you to be part of this opportunity to support Paul and Donna, there is a Get Involved card attached.