

June 1, 2010

Dear Family and Friends,

In less than 1 week (June 6), Traci and I will be officially stepping away from our position on staff at Waller Baptist Church and launching full time into our role as missionaries to the community of Waller. Thank you so much for the support that so many of you have already given us – we are fully aware that this venture will not succeed if we do not have a strong support group behind us at all times.

Well, today is June 1, and my plan is to send out an update letter on the first of each month to let you know exactly how the Lord is moving in our lives. I will try to keep the updates concise, but that may prove difficult as it seems like every day He is moving and encouraging us in some way or another.

Family

As I am typing this, Traci is just 3 weeks away from her scheduled C-Section to bring Josiah Clay Bauler into this world. Of course, he could come anytime before then, but barring an act of God, we know that he will be here by June 21st at the latest. Of course this is exciting, and Jael can not wait to *finally* meet her baby brother (9 months seems like an eternity to wait when you are 2 years old).

At the same time, we still have some things unsettled, namely, our house/move situation. Many of you were aware of the contract we had on our house, which, if it had gone through, would have had us moved into our new place by now. Well, it did not end up going through, due to some difficulties with the appraisal process, so we are still waiting to sell our house and move into our new home.

Fortunately, the people we are buying from are being very gracious, and they have allowed us to stay under contract with them, which means things will be able to move that much faster when we do finally sell ours. In the meantime, however, we are now having to set up a nursery for Josiah at our current house – something we had hoped to avoid. Yet through all of this, the Lord has been teaching us exactly what it means to “trust the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding...” (Proverbs 3:5-6). It has been a difficult, yet fulfilling lesson to learn.

Ministry

“Mission Waller” is now officially in business, and is incorporated and registered with the State of Texas, 501 c 3 status pending. What that means for you who have committed to support us financially is that you can begin giving, and once our 501 c 3 status with the federal government is finalized, any gift you have donated during this time can be written off as a charitable gift to a non-profit organization.

I have to let you know that there is some risk involved to you by giving now, because if for some reason we are rejected by the federal government, you will not be able to write off your donation(s). However, our lawyer/CPA has assured us that there is no reason to

believe we will have any problems being granted 501 c 3 status, though it could take several months. We will continue to keep you updated on this.

The deal on our house has also delayed us moving into our new office, so for now we will be working out of our current home at 30438 Binford Place, Waller, TX 77484. You can send your checks to this address for now, and we will send out a report as soon as that address changes. (We are also currently working on our website, and once that is up and running, you will have the option to give online.)

By the way, some of you may not be aware of where the name "Mission Waller" came from. At one point, we were working with the name "Church of Waller," but that name caused some confusion for both our church members (they kept asking us if we were starting a church where I was going to pastor) and the federal government (they don't like anything being called "Church" that doesn't look like a church in their eyes). So after praying about it, we borrowed the concept from "Mission Houston," though we are not officially connected to them.

Finally, I have to tell you about last week's youth "Crash." This is one of our monthly worship services where youth groups from all over our area come together as one, and last week was my final chance to host as a Youth Pastor. I spoke on investing your life (Phil 2:12-18), and then challenged the kids to take \$10 from Mission Waller, with the goal of investing it (cf. Jesus' Parable of Talents). Throughout the summer, they will return the profits to Mission Waller and will have had the opportunity to contribute to their community. At the end of the message, we gave out \$300, and more have signed up since! This is a huge praise, and we can not wait to see how the Lord will bless their efforts.

As you can see, the Lord is moving in a lot of ways with us right now, yet there is still plenty we need to get done right away. To those of you who have sent back your response cards, we'd like to say "Thank you." We look forward to hearing from those of you who have not yet done so. If you lost or misplaced yours, you can simply send us an email at tracijoelbauler@yahoo.com (once our website is up, we'll have official Mission Waller email accounts), or send a letter to the address mentioned above.

Thanks again to all of you for the continued love and support you've been giving.

With Sincere Love,

Joel and Traci Bauler
(and Jael and Josiah)

P.S. Before I finished writing this letter, we received word that we should be receiving a new offer on our house this Friday, June 4th...please continue praying!