



Innovative Truth

Bringing Scripture to Life

August 2023

Dear Friend,

Happy August! This month we are encouraging all of our financial and prayer partners to join us in our **“Month of Radical Love and Giving!”** What does that look like? We don't know. It will be different for each person and family. You have to listen to God and let Him lead you. Allow me to give you an example.

Last week before we headed back to Oklahoma City, after Luciano and I (Tonya) finished running some errands, we decided to grab a bite to eat and just enjoy some mother & son time before I left Texas. As we were driving, we saw a woman pushing a stroller across the street with a young boy and what appeared to be a newborn baby. **It was 110° and sweltering hot.**

We were headed the opposite direction, yet as we passed through the intersection I heard God clearly say, "Go help." I told Luciano we needed to go back to that family. I'm not encouraging anyone to do something that puts them in danger, but I can tell you in that moment there was no question it was God leading me.

Luciano is used to me responding to a 'God call' so he didn't even ask any questions as he did a u-turn. We pulled over as the family was crossing a parking lot and I gently approached the mom.

We introduced ourselves to Tomeka. They were headed to the grocery store to get a tortilla so Noah, the 8-year-old, would be able to have a meal that day. We asked if we could join them. I won't say it wasn't a little awkward but I've responded to God's call enough times now to know how to tap dance through the awkwardness that is often initially present.

Over the next hour while walking the aisles of the grocery store we learned their story. Everyone has a story if you take the time to listen. By the end of our afternoon together we had driven them back to their apartment and filled their refrigerator with food, and bought Noah a school backpack. It was so much fun watching he and Luciano in the cereal aisle because Noah had never been allowed to choose any cereal he wanted before. When he chose a sugary cereal, I made him promise he would brush his teeth. It was then he pulled me close and whispered

he didn't have toothpaste. We made sure before we left, they all had new toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss. Noah's face lit up when Luciano, who had a giant Squirtle Pokemon in his car, gave it to Noah. We all prayed together before leaving their apartment. Tomeka kept hugging me and saying I was sent by God. She's right, I was sent by God. But they blessed us more that day than we blessed them!

We can't tell you what being led by God will look like for you. We're here to encourage allowing HIM to speak to you in the silence and then share with us your results. Maybe He'll lead you to donate your time or skills somewhere. Maybe you'll sit with a friend who's having a hard time. Maybe you'll radically commit to reading scripture every single day. Maybe you'll write an extra check to a ministry. Whatever and wherever God leads you, we encourage you to answer with a resounding,

"YESSSSS! HERE I AM LORD!"

With all our love,