



BRANCHES

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CHURCH PLANTING IN **SAN FRANCISCO**

God is Good All the Time, and All the time God is...

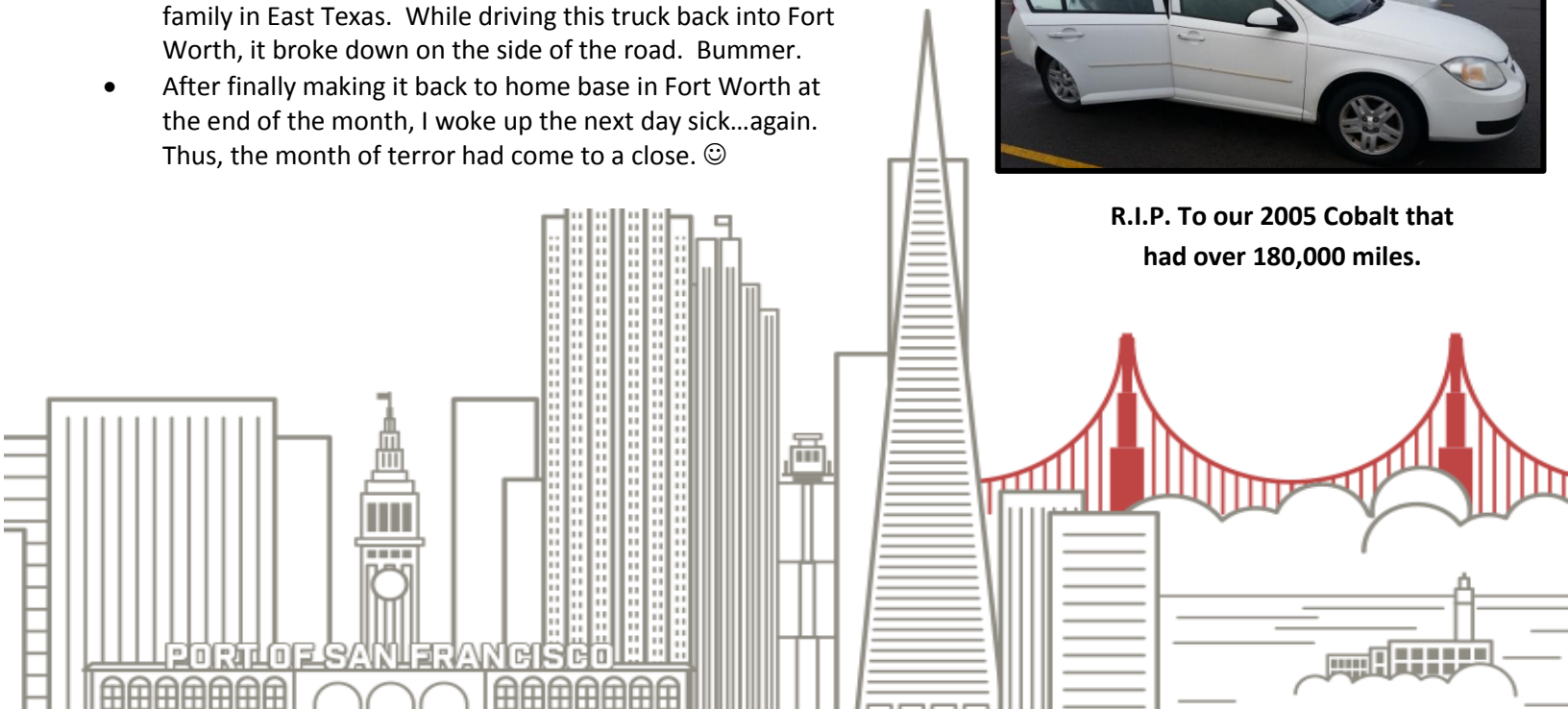
October and November were some of the most wild of our journey thus far. We drove over 6000 miles...and with two babies that is an adventure! However, we got the privilege of being in some amazing churches and meeting some wonderful people. But, it wasn't without its difficulties....

Have you ever had one of those days when it seems like everything is going wrong? Or maybe it's longer, like a whole week, month or year. Well, this past month for us was "one of those months."

- It started off with our whole family getting sick, and I mean bad sick. By the time it had gone through all of us this sickness lasted at least a week.
- Then we had to go see a blood specialist because we found out that they had concerns with Judah's newborn screen. Come to find out, Judah has Sickle Cell Anemia which is a blood disease that affects how oxygen flows through your blood stream. This can lead to complications ranging from pain, to strokes depending on how severe the case. This will be something he will have to live with the rest of his life. ...Not exactly good news.
- Then one Sunday in Ohio, while on our way to church, we got a flat tire. I put on the spare, we went to church and afterward, we took it to Wal-mart to get a new tire. While in the garage, after replacing the two front tires, they could not get the car to start back up. Turns out, the motor had blown. R.I.P. Chevy Cobalt.
- On the way back to Texas we had rented a car and had picked up an extra vehicle to use temporarily from Hali's family in East Texas. While driving this truck back into Fort Worth, it broke down on the side of the road. Bummer.
- After finally making it back to home base in Fort Worth at the end of the month, I woke up the next day sick...again. Thus, the month of terror had come to a close. ☺



R.I.P. To our 2005 Cobalt that had over 180,000 miles.



In life we all have struggles and pains that we go through, and at times we can become so focused on these earthly troubles that we forget to look at all the wonderful things our heavenly Father is doing even amidst our pain. We forget to be thankful. We forget that God never lets us down. We forget that He never leaves and never forsakes. It's all about perspective and we must ask: are we focusing on the negative or on all the positive ways God is blessing? Allow me to re-tell the story of this last month now focusing on how God is good ALL the time.

- I did get sick at the end of the month. However, God allowed me to get well in time to speak at my Wednesday appointment.
- The truck we borrowed did break down on the side of the road. But God sent a guy that pulled over to help us out. He knew exactly what part we needed and how to fix it. There was a car parts store a few miles down the road so, I picked up the part and this guy stayed there and put it in the truck for us!! By the way, his name is Clarence..you know, like the angel from "It's a Wonderful Life".
- Our car did break down in Ohio and was rendered useless. But, we happened to break down in the town over from where we helped start our sending church in Port Clinton. So we had our whole church family there to help instead of being in the middle of Kansas, or somewhere where we didn't know anyone. Also, my boss from the secular job I had worked at while in Port Clinton, allowed me to borrow a van for the week of Thanksgiving so I did not have to rent a car for that week. The church we were staying at in Michigan, Beacon Baptist, paid for our rental car back down to Texas, AND the manager on staff in the Auto section of Wal-mart knew a mechanic that ended up buying our car for parts so we didn't have to worry about towing it away and figuring out what to do with it. God worked it all out!!
- At the beginning of the month we all were sick; however, we all got well enough in time for Judah's baby dedication and got to celebrate with my family from Hawaii, Hail's family, and Judah's birth family all together.

Now, you may be thinking...'that's all great, but what good is God doing through Judah's blood disease?' We walked into the Hematology department of Dallas Children's hospital for his appointment, and soon discovered that it is connected to the Cancer treatment section of the hospital. As we stepped out of the elevator, there they were, child after child without any hair on their heads. We saw the faces of desperate parents just trying to make it through the day. Children who had become so familiar with return trips to the hospital for treatment that they knew all the nurses names. Children were playing with the blocks and toys in the waiting room as the cancer was eating away at their little bodies. It was a heart wrenching sight. When we got home from the hospital that evening I wrote in my journal, "God...Thank You for Sickle Cell" because it could be so much worse. There are times when God shows you something that allows you to return to an attitude of thankfulness and leave behind all the complaints. We serve a GREAT God, whose mercy renews day by day and whose love for us is everlasting. However, sometimes we forget.

Let's return to thanking our God for all He has done and all He is doing even amidst our pain. Let's return to praising God at the top of our lungs for His loving-kindness, His daily provision, and His life altering grace. Let's return to the attitude of thanksgiving, remembering always...

God is good ALL the time, and ALL the time GOD. IS. GOOD.

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