



THE WILTS

Church Planters

Dear friends,

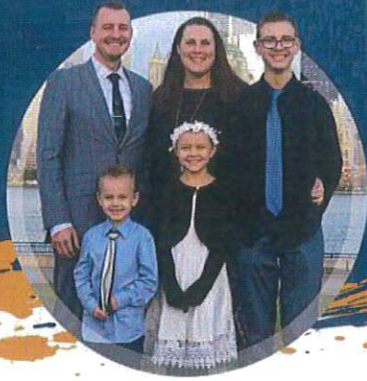
Thank you so much for your continued prayer and support. Last letter we discussed heading to a full schedule and several missions conferences. We had an incredibly busy April and May. It has been an incredible joy and encouragement seeing old faces and meeting new ones, But this letter we need and desire to focus on what's upcoming more than our recent travels. Most of you all know that our daughter had cancer. Praise the Lord she is cancer free and we are eternally grateful to you all for coming along side us in prayer, support, and encouragement. We said to each other many times that we are so thankful we had such a strong support group to rally around us in our darkest times. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the calls, gifts, prayers, and love you have given us. As much as we would like to say that we are "fine" and we have made it through this difficult time with grace, strength, and our hearts fully intact. But the truth is, we are not fine. We are still hurting and the trial we faced has left our family broken in ways that we are still trying to understand. We have tried to be ok. To leave things fully in the Lords hands and move forward but we have recognized that our family needs to take a short break to find healing and strengthen our walk with God and each other. We have discussed with our sending church and the mission board what this would look like. And we would like to share the plan with you. We have first been recommended to switch sending churches to a pastor that we know better and that is willing to help us through this bridge. We have been in communication with our current sending church and the church that will become our shepherding church and eventually our sending church. The current sending church we have is not the pastor that was originally over us and has been a help to us but we are, in a sense, an inherited missionary. The new sending church is a pastor that we have worked with in ministry as well as a friend in the ministry that has checked up on us and has been someone over time we have grown to respect and love in Christ. My wife also has a good relationship with the pastors wife and she has been a tremendous encouragement to her the past 20 years we have known them. We are so thankful for Wayside Baptist church and the role they have played in our lives and for pastor giving me a chance these past few years even though he did not know me. Next we have been encouraged to get counseling not only for us as a couple but also for our children.



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We have found a counselor that we have spoken to and he is prepared and ready to start our sessions this month. We will be moving down close to Winston Salem North Carolina for about six to eight weeks to meet with Bro. Huffman and his wife at Legacy Bible and counseling institute. We were very encouraged by him over the phone and we look forward to meeting them in person soon. For anyone that has gone through childhood cancer, you would understand how it impacts the family in ways that you were not prepared for emotionally. I will give a few examples to show how we, and our mentors see a value in us taking a short break to get some added help. Zion has been crying often lately with feelings of loneliness and abandonment as the change in our lives we have experienced this past year have brought up some pushed down emotions from when we felt alone when the girls were at the hospital so many nights. Certain songs, though happy, bring back fear and crying as he recalls the moments he felt scared at night for his sister and mommy. Alethia has had several occasions of night terrors and has struggled to regulate her emotions. The fear of relapse is very real in her life right now. Every time she has a cold her heart and mind go to a very troubling place. For the rest of us, our “coping” has been very different and has caused some strain as we try to navigate how to move forward “after”. As a couple we have made mistakes and need to just take a moment to reconnect with each other. We are of no use to God’s service if we are not on the same page and in perfect stride with each other. We deeply want to serve the Lord. We have no plan B and we have no intention on quitting, We want to serve God, We want to plant churches, and we want to see souls saved. But we need to get right with each other and our children so we can move forward for the cause of Christ with a good testimony and renewed passion and life that reflects Christ well. After the counseling sessions we will be moving into a missions house at the church that will become our new sending church. While we know the pastor well and some church members because they have been a supporting church for a while now, we plan to take a couple of months to get to know the people of the church on a personal level so our home support team will be strong. We will then have a recommissioning service and then set out on furlough again to finish raising the support we need to get back to the city. That is the plan that has been discussed between our sending church, the new one, and our mission board.



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We understand that you might have questions or concerns and if you need to call, please feel free. We will continue to send our quarterly updates. Thank you for trusting us with your missions support. We do hope and pray that you will have faith in us to get the help that we need and then get back at it so we can see another church planted in NYC. Both our mission board and new sending church plan to also include a letter with ours to explain from their perspective on this matter. During Alethia's entire treatment we have tried to smile, and show courage but have recognized now that sometimes, you just need a little help and we feel that it would be what God would want us to do at this point in our lives. Thank you once again for all the love you have given us and know that we truly do plan to continue on after this short break. Thank you for understanding and being by our side this whole season.

In Christ, The Wilts