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DAVID AND RACHAEL LYONS



...TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

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“... Because you were slain and
with your blood you
purchased men for God from
every tribe and language and
people and nation.”

Revelation 5:9b



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Spring 2024

The second weekend in January, my (David's) family gathered in Arizona to hold a memorial service for my dad who passed away quickly the year prior since we were unable to do it at that time. I was asked to share then at his funeral/memorial service. As I pondered with what to share, I thought of something my dad told me in the last few days before his death. He said in a rather sad manner, "I just wanted to leave a legacy." He said this believing he had failed at that endeavor.

On the night I was baptized, October 10, 1997, the minister spoke a message entitled, "The Legacy." His main scripture text was the first part of Proverbs 10:7, which says, "The memory of the righteous will be a blessing." Matthew 26:13 speaks to something along these lines. When Mary anointed Jesus' feet with oil, people were angry with her for this "waste." However, Jesus tells them to leave her alone and continues with, "Wherever this Gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

I don't think she set out to change the world, to become famous, or even to be a blessing. But what she did for Christ out of a heart of simple love and gratitude served as that legacy that forever is told of her. I often

struggle with what kind of eternal impact I am having. I often ask questions of myself like, "Am I living a life that makes sense in the light of eternity? Am I touching peoples' lives?"

I think only eternity will reveal the true extent of the impact each of us have. I want to encourage you, dear reader, that when you seek to love God and love others (the two greatest commandments if I remember correctly), you are having an eternal impact and leaving an eternal legacy. Perhaps, occasionally we get to hear some of how we are blessing others. I will close this "ministry section" with a quick "testimony" I received recently from a friend of mine. He said, "Since you've had a hand in my spiritual growth, I wanted to let you know that with it being made official on Sunday that I am now the director of congregational care at '[his church]' and will also be put on the calendar for preaching as well when pastor is not there. Super pumped for this new opportunity and to see where God takes me. I will still be [work]...and do this position part time and trust in His plan for what He has in store for me. Thanks for being a part of my faith journey."

Lyons Family Corner:

We were proud to welcome the newest member to our family on February 13th! Our precious baby boy, whom we named

William Albert. William, to carry on the tradition of David's first name (as well as his father's) and to honor the life of David's father who passed away a year ago in January. And, Albert, to honor one of Rachael's grandfathers. We will officially call him Liam however. He weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and was 21 inches long. He has a head full of dark hair and looks so much like his older brother did at the same age that for the first couple weeks of his life the poor baby was constantly being called Shiloh! His big sisters and brother are thrilled to pieces to have him around and love to be big helpers!

Our last hurrah as a family of 5 was to take a trip to Phoenix, AZ in mid-January. In honor of David's father's one year of passing, his immediate and extended family gathered together for a memorial service. Even though we've been married 15 years this was the first time Rachael met many extended family members, as well as seeing some of David's siblings for the first time since our wedding. It was so great to gather together! The kids loved meeting and playing with cousins they've never before met. We were so blessed to have had the opportunity to go!