

Waiting.

Have you ever had to wait for something? I mean, really wait?? So much in our lives today is available right when we want it: fast food, movies streaming immediately, on-line purchases delivered the next day... I think we are forgetting what it is to have to wait.

This week we had a little reminder of waiting.

Firstly, we've been waiting for Paul's parents to arrive and visit for Christmas. Thankfully, they arrived safely this Friday! But...unfortunately, their suitcases did not...not even their carry-on bags which had been checked when leaving Kansas! They filed a complaint and we drove home from the airport, fully expecting the bags to be delivered the next day. On Saturday, we waited for a call to meet the delivery driver at our house...but no call came. Sunday, we called and were told the bags were "out for delivery" and should arrive that day. We tried to carry-on with our day, but our thoughts revolved around waiting for the missing bags. All day we waited. No call, no email...no bags. Of course, our parents were uncomfortable in the waiting – they needed what was in those bags – but we were also hurting for them, and with them. We couldn't FULLY enjoy our clean clothes, our toiletries, all those things we all like to have for daily use...not while our loved ones were without. We had the promise that the bags were located, and would get to us someday "soon" ...but still we waited. Those 3 days of waiting seemed like forever.

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Advent is a season of waiting.

Waiting for Jesus.

Yes, remembering how Jesus was born on Earth, and lived among us back in the day...but also waiting for Him to come again. Waiting for the day when Jesus will come to take us to be with Him in Heaven. Waiting for when all will again be right in the world. Waiting for health, comfort, joy, peace, unity, fullness.

Sort of like waiting on suitcases.

But not really like that at all.

We have God's promise that He will come again...that we will live with Him someday...but it's so hard waiting! In a way, it's even a tiny bit like the uneasiness we felt enjoying the luxury of our things while our parents didn't have theirs. It's hard to fully enjoy the promise we have in Jesus, when so many around us do not have this gift.

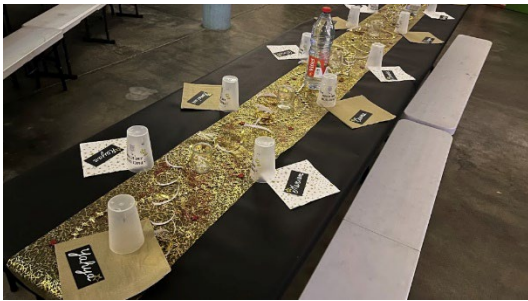
We want so badly for them to receive this promise which we already have ...and so we wait.

We pray. We love.

We hope.

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned...For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end."

Isaiah 9:2,6-7



Our Quartier Libre Christmas party was a huge success! We enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by volunteers from church, laughed ourselves silly through ice-breakers, and watched a skit telling the story of Abraham's faith in God - faith big enough to offer up his only son, trusting that God would be faithful to His promise - and how God provided the sacrifice so that Isaac was saved. Many meaningful conversations around the table took place as a result of this story. We hope and pray that God continues to reveal Himself in the lives of these dear families we know and love, and that they come to know Jesus and His willing sacrifice for each of us!

