



The past 2 weeks have been a challenge for our family. We departed Kinshasa on January 7th after receiving word that my (Tasha) stepdad was on life support and was unresponsive. The doctors said he would not make it through the night. It was a long journey to the United States (32 hours from driveway to driveway), but the Lord gave us small gifts along the way (a full flight with one empty seat next to us, bulkhead seating, and kids who slept most of the journey).

When we arrived, we found my stepdad still in the CCU with double pneumonia as well as a host of other underlying health concerns but his organs were no longer in failure. Eventually he was able to be weaned off the ventilator, then brought out of sedation. With each step forward there has been a step backwards. There were two more times we were told he would not live through the night, but he has continued to fight. He is expected to move to a Long Term Acute Care Facility to continue his medical care and eventually to a rehabilitation facility. We have been told over and over that his recovery will be long and he may never be the same. But that is more than we could have ever hoped.

We made the decision for me (Tasha) and the kids to remain in the USA, but Kevin needed to return to Kinshasa for some meetings and other important things. He arrived on Thursday. I have been helping my mother with the many decisions and changes that need to happen, preparing the house to facilitate for adequate care for my stepdad's eventual return, although that is a minimum of 6 months from now. I am very glad we were able to come home during my family's time of need. Thanks for your continued prayers.

Prayers and Praises

- Please be in prayer for our family during the separation over the next two weeks.
- Please continue to pray for my stepfather and his recovery.
- Pray for my mother and her ability to adjust to these changes.
- Pray that my (Tasha) remaining time in the US will be fruitful and beneficial.
- Pray for Kevin and his opportunity to catch up at work and be ready for the upcoming meetings.
- Praise for the help everyone has provided thus far (squeezing the kids into the HV PEP program, all the winter clothing provided, the help cleaning my mom's home, and the many counselling sessions from our friends who have gone through similar circumstances). We are very grateful for everything.
- Praise for our kids and their ability to adapt to the situation and surroundings (even though Adah refused to speak in English for the first 10 minutes of her first day of Pre-K here and Solomon still won't take a nap because he prefers to play).
- Praises for the Walker family who was willing to move into our home in Kinshasa at the last minute to take care of it for us while we are gone.



Daddy showing Adah how to make a snow angel



Solomon's 1st snow