



CASABLANCA - A CITY OF 3.3 MILLION PEOPLE ON THE EVE OF RAMADAN.

## Assalamualaikum Greetings from Dakar



April 2022

QUICK BLURB

## Surviving the ride of our lives

Does your life ever feel like a roller coaster ride? Some people approach these rides with reckless abandon, eyes open, hands up, screaming at the top of their lungs. Others, squeeze the bar tightly, shut their eyes, and hold on for dear life just waiting for it to be over. Still others won't consider getting on the ride at all. Instead, they sit in the shade at a safe distance holding things for everyone else while they enjoy the ride.

I get it. Some days I am confident, sure of myself, kicking butt and taking names. I like those days because there's nothing to doubt...I got this. But other days, I am overwhelmed by the insanity of it all – the highs and lows. The constant changing, swerving, thinking I'm headed in one direction only to be spun around to find myself in another direction. Those are days you want to hunker down and hope you aren't flung into space never to be heard from again. Yes, there are also days where I just want to go back home. I don't want to get out of bed, or deal with people, or solve problems, or win friends or lose someone I love. Those days when I just as soon leave living to everyone else, and sit quietly until Jesus comes back.

We can also experience these same approaches in our spiritual lives. Moments of great revelation, fervor, urgency, reckless love that motivates us to do it all for God's glory. Moments when God asks too much of us, so we're fearful of the hurt that can come from being jerked in too many directions at once. Moments when we sit at such a distance from God – we put space between us so that we don't have to feel anything: exhilaration or fear, joy or sorrow, pressure or no pressure.

In Ephesians chapter 1, we get some amazing reassurances. Not so much about the ride of our lives, but about the guy who runs the ride in the first place.

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### Friends without borders

I am excited to announce that my friend, Lu Edwards, from Morocco will be moving to Senegal for the 2022-2023 school year. She has served in Casablanca for ten years, during two of which I was her roommate. I've been trying to get her to come to DA for years, and she finally accepted God's call to a more difficult part of Africa. She will be heading up our third campus in a more remote location.

I always vacation in Morocco because I have a free place to stay, but also because of the western treats and conveniences. I get my fill of American food and shopping in the middle of a long semester.

I also come because Lu is an accountability partner – someone who models Christ for me and holds me to living a life of love and service for Him. She has modeled that whole-heartedly over the years, and I am looking forward to having her in Senegal as we both explore God's plans for our leadership at DA.

God is so good! Many of you may remember the three Nigerian sisters that I helped care for during my first two years. Once they moved from Dakar, we lost touch. I've wondered many times what happened to them, then a few Sundays ago, I received this picture. They are living in Canada and going to school with the niece of our facilities director. Gladys, the one pictured here, overheard them talking about Mr. Lobb in Africa and made the connection. Praise the Lord for these small world connections.



For Lent this year, I gave up sitting on my couch every afternoon and took up walking as part of a devotional program that my sister's work started. It's called Walk to the Cross and challenges people to walk 65 miles during the 40 days of Lent – roughly the distance between Nazareth and Jerusalem. It's been a good time of prayer and relaxing. It's also been cool to follow along with others around the world who are doing the same thing.

Every other Friday, I get to meet with these middle school girls in a group called Snack n Chat – we talk about life and spiritual things. They are curious and full of energy that is contagious. In this picture, we decorated a pair of shoes I got for Christmas with their names, etc. Now I wear them every time we meet.







I am so grateful for this sweet group of ladies who have been my Bible study group this year. My friend, Joanna, started it and does the most delicious home cooking for us each week. I have been leading the study through the last few letters of the New Testament. We've learned a lot about loving each other! Mostly, we share life together, which is so important for me as I am away from my family.

I have had lots of opportunities this semester to show my team spirit through a new intramural program run by students in our Leadership in Sports class. Every student and staff member was assigned to a colored team. Whenever we have an event, if you don't play, you have to be the most supportive fan on the sidelines. I've been doing a lot of supporting – Go Blue!



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God chose us! Jesus saves us! The Holy Spirit seals us!

Look at these words: there are no human conditions here. This is all about the work of God and the godhead, each doing their part to redeem me. Somehow, you and I have been the focus of His concern from before the creation of the universe. The trinity has been involved in bringing us the grace and peace in which we now stand. Even if you see yourself as insignificant or unimportant or ineffectual, the focused energies of the godhead have been spent on your redemption. We matter to him on good days and bad days, in the hills and in the valleys, when we've given it all or have giving up. HE is working.

**BONUS:** You are not on this rollercoaster of life alone. Instead, we are God's children cradled safely in his arms, and He is in control of every twist and turn.

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for a successful end to the school year - things really happen quickly once spring break is over.
- Pray for me as I complete my Certificate to be Head of School, which I will be next year for our Central campus. I have three projects to complete and a presentation in Chicago in June.
- Pray for God's timing and my perfect peace as I wait for next steps to unfold; starting a school in Ghana is definitely delayed and may be taking a new shape.
- Pray for the positions we have yet to fill - especially for a clinical counselor and an IT specialist.
- It's been a challenging semester where the doldrums seem to dominate my thoughts. Pray for clarity of mind, peace in Christ, and renewed joy in serving Him.

Thanks for your continued love and support!