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Transitions often launch with traumatic life experiences. They serve to catapult an individual into a time of isolation, questioning and struggle. Transitions are the in-between moments in a Christ-followers' life. It has become evident that you cannot go back to what you know, but it has also become clear that you are not quite sure which way is forward. God does some of his greatest work during times of transition, shaping character and aligning us to his purposes and plans. We want out of this time, but God wants in.

- Terry Walling

September 19, 2022

Dear Forestgate Brothers and Sisters,

On March 29th, my day began with a frightening auto accident. Six months later, my healing journey continues. My body no longer displays external signs of my accident, but a traumatic brain injury (TBI) is healing slowly. It's remarkable I completed my final Missionary Care courses with a TBI and submitted my last assignments in June! Since my accident inaugurated an unexpected season in our lives, I decided to write an "old-fashioned" letter letting you know where I am in the journey toward what's next in my missionary career. Scott and I are walking through an important transition period--looking forward while not knowing what forward will finally be.

Being in transition is a chaotic, disorienting experience and a TBI intensifies my sense of isolation. I want to willingly sit still knowing God is shaping my character. I trust he is aligning me to his purposes and plans, which he has faithfully done in the past. However, this is a more challenging season than I imagined. My TBI adds daily struggles including cognitive interruptions, vision problems, oversensitivity to sights and sounds, emotional upheaval, insecurity, short- and long-term memory gaps, dizziness, disequilibrium, sadness, and fatigue. We're getting a crash course in neurology and various therapies we hope will support my brain in repairing itself.

It took several months to find a neurologist to assess my brain injury. We learned my TBI is severe and to expect at least a year before my brain will noticeably improve. TBI recovery is an exercise in patience! Having learned my brain needs much more time to rest and recover than we imagined, I let MTW leaders know about my health challenge. Last week they approved medical leave for me until December 31st. We're very thankful for their commitment to my recovery, and for freedom to focus full-time on my healing process.

In recent months, Scott and I have been seeking God's guidance through prayer and conversations with MTW leaders and other advisors. Our immediate priority is my recovery, but we are curious about what the future holds too. We're hopeful and expectant even though the path ahead is not clear. Here's what we're pondering about future ministry roles for me:

1. Is there a role in MTW's Global Missionary Care Department? MTW, like other mission agencies in a post-Covid world, allows some staff to work remotely. Is there an opportunity for me to remain a full-time supported missionary based in Littleton, and travel in the U.S. and abroad to serve MTW colleagues?
2. Is there a role on World Venture's (WV) missionary care team? This would entail a shift from MTW to the agency with which Scott has served for 40+ years. I would remain a full-time supported missionary. We're also asking: Should we partner together to train, care for and mentor WV missionaries? Scott is a missiologist, missionary trainer, and mentor. Our passion, experience and training are complementary in many ways.
3. Is there a role in another mission agency? Missionary Care is a growing, specialized field and many sending agencies need trained care professionals. I would remain a full-time supported missionary.

While a precise role is undefined now, we are certain about this: I am passionate about putting my Missionary Care degree to work serving, encouraging, and helping missionaries thrive. We invite you to pray with us during this transition season complicated by the unexpected challenge of my TBI recovery. According to our plans, we had hoped to have been much farther along in the discovery process by now. Several people have suggested God used my accident to “put the on brakes” and slow my tendency to plow ahead. An auto accident is not how I would have chosen for God to bring me to a sudden halt, but we do see his mercy in slowing me down after sparing my life! We hope I will be able to undertake a new role early in 2023. Clearly, we must patiently pray and wait upon God’s care, healing and leading.



Scott and I are very grateful for the churches and ministry partners who have faithfully supported us financially and in prayer since we embarked on our missionary careers. We are humbled by God’s generosity through each one of you. Thank you for sending me to represent you in Spain. Thank you for remaining on my team while I was further equipped to care for missionaries. During my recovery and career transition season, our need for your prayers and financial support persists.

Thank you for your committed partnership, while I rest and recover, and while we discover the good works God has prepared beforehand that I should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).

Always giving thanks to God for you,

P.S. If you have any questions, please know I would welcome the opportunity to talk with you.