

Dear family and friends,

Some of the first signs of spring have arrived, from robins to skunk cabbage blooms, and with Easter just around the corner I cannot help but reflect on the new life we have in Christ!

2ND CORINTHIANS 5:17 'THEREFORE IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATION. THE OLD HAS PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD THE NEW HAS COME.'

Speaking of new life, we are expecting the birth of a little one in mid April! We hoped to tell many of you in person, but have not had much opportunity to travel recently. Please be praying for Brittany and I as we prepare to welcome this precious child into our family.



Gilan has been playing in the mud and snow a lot this winter, and now one of his favorite words is "boot". He will even bring me my boots as a way of telling me he wants to go outside. It is just over a year since he was diagnosed with botulism, and the doctors are very pleased with his recovery. He is constantly moving and exploring. Please pray for him as he has had a hard time understanding why Brittany has not been able to pick him up as often or play on the floor with him. He has seen the new baby's crib and Britt's belly bump, but we do not know if he fully realizes how things are changing. We pray that he will grow to be a leader for his new sibling and any future children God may bless us with.

Brittany has been doing well throughout the pregnancy, although now in the 8th month she is very tired. Please pray for a safe and healthy delivery and for us as parents, as we adjust to life with a newborn AND toddler.

Back in January, I had the opportunity to become certified as a Wilderness First Responder, which is currently the highest rated wilderness medical training. The course was 8 days long and hosted at Hawk Mountain Education Center, where we spent many days out in the rain and snow practicing scenarios of helping those lost or injured on the mountainside. I met a lot of interesting people who were also participating in the training, one of which was a fellow believer! I hope with this training to be better prepared for personal emergencies while out hiking, camping, or backpacking, as well as serving the campers at Haycock on camp or out on adventure trips.



The remainder of our fall retreats went well, and we are currently looking forward to spring retreats and summer camp. We have been hosting an Outdoor Adventure After-School Club for the local elementary schools, in which kids from the district get to come to camp one afternoon

a week to try out many different camp activities and learn lessons in nature and survival skills, such as identifying animal tracks or following a compass. This has been one of my favorite programs yet, as we get to show them God's awesome Creation up close and in person. We have many of our Parent & Child retreat weekends coming up, so if you or anyone you know is looking for a chance to get away from the busyness of life and spend some quality time with their child, hearing God's word and enjoying His great outdoors, come join us!



Summer camp planning has been happening since the start of the new year and I will be leading Day Camp once again. Please pray for the highschool and college aged staff that will be serving this summer, that God will use this time to prepare their hearts for ministry. And please pray for the hundreds of campers that will attend this summer, that their hearts will be open to the Gospel and growing to be more like Christ each day.

The current STAND guys have been busy this winter, serving both locally and abroad. They spent a week with The Rock ministries in Kensington and then another week working with local pastors in Belize. They are now back at camp and serving in many roles and job shadowing Christian men in their interested field. Please be praying for them as they make plans for their future and grow into godly men.

This year has been difficult for our family financially. As you well know, prices for gasoline, groceries, and other everyday items have been on the rise. For my family directly, much of Gilan's hospital stay was covered by our insurance, but the coverage for his physical therapy was not as extensive. I was also about \$1000 short of my desired fundraising goal in 2023. To continue strong in this ministry and support my growing family, I am looking to raise an additional \$350 per month. Please prayerfully consider joining me in the ministry here. If you feel led to support me, please fill out the commitment card and return it in the enclosed envelope, or visit the online **Donation** page at haycock.org and include "Matthew Bottomley" in the comment section under **Missionary Support**. Thank you to those who have already been faithfully supporting me! I could not be doing this without you.

Lastly, I would like to invite you to the Haycock Annual Banquet, to be held April 12th, 6:00pm at Renew Bible Church (Perkasie, PA). Please visit haycock.org for more info and to RSVP.

In Christ,

Matthew Bottomley