

# Beau and Teagan's Mission Year



Dear Family and Friends,

January 2007

As you may remember I (Beau) visit prisoners for my job. My favorite visit in December was Jonathan. He seemed highly motivated and had a good attitude. I had been corresponding a lot with him through letters and was looking forward to the visit. He is currently enrolled in a computer class. At the end of the class he will be able to get A+ certification that will help him get computer related jobs upon his release in two years. I have been A+ certified in the past and it helps me relate to him. Jonathan says this is the first beneficial program he's seen since he entered prison 11 years ago. In most prisons the inmates do not have any access to computers. His computer teacher even stopped by to tell me that Jonathan is one of his best students. He says prison has helped him get on the right track and he has learned his lesson. I have been sending him information about computer certification and jobs. The Georgia Justice Project may be able to help him get another computer certification while in prison. I'm glad I can help him in a small way to fulfill his dreams.

I was feeling discouraged about the relational impact portion of Mission Year. I was expecting to have more and better relationships at this point in the year. I also wished I had used past relational impact time more effectively. I have been encouraged with the realization that I still have so much time ahead of me. I have also thought of new strategies. For one, I don't need anybody else in the house to do relational impact. This frees me to form relationships more often. Also, being alone may allow for deeper conversations. I've also realized that I don't need to think of a reason to interact with people. I can just hang around for no reason. On a recent Saturday I was at Earl and Deborah's house for about three hours with no agenda. Some of the time I played catch with a 13 year old girl. Just hanging out seems more acceptable here than where I'm from. I should just hang out with people with no specific purpose. And it's not too late to form completely new relationships. There are so many relational possibilities ahead of me this year. I can't wait to see how God uses me.

I was borrowing the Smith's car to take a movie back. Eddie was outside and I agreed to give him a ride home. I didn't have a pocket so I threw my wallet and the movie on the dashboard once I got in the car. Eddie, in the passenger seat, asked if we had any fruit. We did and he convinced me to go in and get him some fruit before we left. I grabbed my wallet and the movie before going in to get the fruit. Surely he saw and realized it was a sign of distrust. I feel so bad about it now. He's such a nice guy and I do trust him. It was worth risking my wallet stolen than to take even more dignity from someone who is already beaten down. I will apologize to him.

Emmett has been visiting our house a lot lately. He's kind and quiet. He is homeless and sometimes we let him use our shower. Also he's eaten with us during our house meals. He doesn't talk much but he does express his gratitude. He often hangs around for a few hours. It was raining and getting late and Emmett asked if he could stay the night on our couch. Little did I know that one of the hardest Mission Year rules to follow would be not letting people stay the night at our house. I felt so bad telling him he had to sleep out in the rain. We offered him our front or back porch but he turned them down. The least we could do was put him out with a blanket and pillow.

I (Teagan) had begun to give up on ever seeing Miracle again. I wasn't seeing her at the bus stop anymore, and not body else was either. I started to think that maybe she had moved. But one night, I ran into her on the bus, at a crazy time, when I was least expecting it. Since then I've seen her again, at random times, and I've started to ride the bus at a different time in hopes of seeing her. I'm excited to try and build up our relationship, and really go out on a limb to do so. I'm nervous about it, but I'm so glad that God has given me this second chance.

I have really enjoyed getting to know Emmett. He's so polite, and he calls me by my name, which is something that can be kind of rare. He really appreciates what we have given him of God's provision for us, and although he doesn't give back yet, like some relationships have, I think that he wishes that he could. He is often asking us for money or bus tokens, but even though we don't give any to him, he still comes around to see us. Emmett helped us to celebrate my birthday, and his quiet presence helped to fill the void of not having my family there. I echo what Beau says about it being hard to kick him out, and I felt like it's the hardest thing I've ever had to do.

We feel overwhelmingly blessed by the financial support that we have received. We are so extremely grateful for every donation. God's provision brings us such great joy. We have raised half our support so far. The goal is \$16000. Thanks so much for your continued support. You can send your tax-deductible contributions, made payable to DOOR, to 430 West 9th Ave, Denver, CO 80204. Just write our names and "Atlanta" on the memo line of the check. We would really appreciate it.

Much Love,

Beau and Teagan Carnes

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