

the
CRANFILLS
TAYLOR, LYNSEY, MAXI-ANN, LAWSON
CHURCH PLANTERS to
CHICAGO



"How shall they *believe* in
him of *whom they have not*
heard?..."

Romans 10:14

July / August

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Dear Pastor and Church,

Hello everyone! The past two months have been incredibly busy, thrilling, and filled with new experiences. To kick things off, we started July by packing up our belongings. Honestly, you don't realize how much you accumulate in just a short time of marriage until you have to move (hahaha). We are truly grateful to the Lord for the wonderful yard sale we held, which helped us clear out some of the items we had collected.

In July, I also went before an ordination counsel, where several important men in my life questioned me about doctrinal and practical matters. As you can imagine, the counsel was quite nerve-wracking, but it was also a time of immense encouragement and challenge. This experience was a significant blessing, as it prompted me to study my beliefs deeply and defend them, allowing me to more effectively "contend for the faith" (Jude 3) in a culture that often seeks to suppress God and His Word.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every pastor and leader who took the time to travel and participate in this pivotal moment for my family and me. During that same weekend, we had the incredible opportunity to partake in our send-off, where the church voted, based on the counsel's recommendation, to ordain me into the gospel ministry. They also took the time to encourage and challenge us to remain faithful in this vital work of planting a church in a city in need.

At the end of July, we took our next big leap as a family: leaving everything we have known since birth to establish ourselves in the city God has called us to. On July 25th, with the help of family, friends, and wonderful helpers from a local moving company, we moved all our belongings into our new apartment, marking the beginning of the exciting process of unpacking everything we had spent months preparing.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to our families for their support during the move, to the churches that provided the financial resources that eased our transition, to Ethan and Chris from Little Ivy Baptist Church for driving the U-Haul all the way from North Carolina, and our sending church and Pastor for all the investment, time spent packing, and encouragement during this journey. It is a blessing to know that we have prayer partners, financial supporters, and individuals willing to serve alongside us as we embark on the mission of planting a church in Chicago.

As I write this letter, we have closed a long chapter in North Carolina and have opened the page to a new chapter, which we pray will last a lifetime. So, as you think about the city of Chicago or see it in the news (which is inevitable), please pray for the people that God might begin to work in their hearts. Additionally, pray for us, that we would be found faithful, as Paul states in 1 Corinthians: "Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2).

With Love, Taylor, Lynsey, Maxi-Ann Cranfill, and Lawson.

Did you know?

- Western Ave. is the longest road in Chicago at 25 miles long taking you from the southern most part of the city to the northern most part of the city
- Chicago has a greater population (2.7 million) than 14 entire U.S. states

Prayer / Praise:

- Grateful for our move and settling in
- Pray for Godly friendships
- Pray to build purposeful relationships for the gospel (God is already opening doors in the area so hoping to share more soon).
- Pray for effective cultural and city training so that we can more effectively share the gospel.



80%

Support Level