

It's spring in North Carolina.
I get to leave the country.

They're building a Taco Bell in Waxhaw. (I thought you might need to know that.)

Spring is new. Notice how "new" happens a lot: new year, new month, new day, spring... except I sometimes miss how much "new" there is because I'm not looking for it. You miss a lot by not looking.

Next month in April I'm meeting colleagues in Germany to talk about an IT strategy for folks who work in some difficult places (we're meeting in Germany because that's convenient to all of them... and yay for me getting to leave the US for the first time since 2012). Hopefully my jet-lagged mind will rebound quickly and be able to make a contribution (a gi-normous contribution that's equivalent to the cost of airfare perhaps... on the other hand, of late, I'm noticing how it only seems expensive to pay for people to meet face to face... until you count the cost to the work of what happens when people don't have chance to strengthen working relationships by meeting face to face... amazing how much time, effort, and money is saved when people know and therefore trust each other). You'd think we could skip meeting each other and just presume good will, etc. ... except as it turns out there isn't a shortcut: no low cost alternative to build relationships and trust. Every relationship requires time and effort to maintain, even if all of the people share faith in Christ and a passionate commitment to seeing every language group have access to God's Word.

Last month in February I spent time in Arizona (speaking of building and maintaining relationships) and got to see many of my favorite people. I was encouraged and challenged and very, very blessed.

This month in March, I spent time in Dallas (again with the building and maintaining relationships... this time work people: first meeting with language program types and then with my Dallas colleagues). I was encouraged and challenged and very blessed. So Germany has big shoes to fill since every trip so far meets the "encouraged, challenged, and blessed" standard. Wait, maybe that's my every day standard: encouraged, challenged, and blessed ...hopefully I'm not just a recipient, but also an encourager, challenger (in a good way, hopefully not the kind of challenge where I'm the problem), and a blessing to others. I am liking this as an everyday standard, it's my NEW everyday standard.

You could pray about...

- Praise God for how weirdly well things have been at work. It's the kind of going well that could cause someone like me to think this is going too well. Is it time for the other shoe to drop? (I'm not really thinking that, I am on a really fun ride at work that I'm really enjoying).
- Pray for two colleagues with health concerns
- Remember how you're praying for me never to have another migraine? Keep that on your list. This last one lasted. It's supposed to go away once I'm able to fall asleep. It was unaware of this requirement and hung around even after I woke up.
- Pray for God to bring along one ...or more IT managers.

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