

Nofziger UPDATE – November 2022



What's up with the Nofzigers? An overview:

- We are three weeks into Vida220 (the 10-month discipleship-mission program), and God has gathered a fantastic group of fun and sincere students. (Pictured above. More photos on facebook). Our older kids are more involved than ever in Vida220, and our family life kind of "folds into" that of the ministry during these three months that these students live here beside us.

- This season feels "fresh" in the spiritual realm here. There's solid unity among the staff and freedom to love and to lead.

- Melanie's parents, Phil and Linda Byler, are living here in Costa Rica with us for this school year! After raising their family in Pennsylvania and then spending 16 in Africa, they are now spending a year living near each of their kids. It's our turn! Their "perfect, cozy" (others would say tiny and damp) apartment is about a 2-minute walk from our home (just on the other side of the VidaNet property), and the sharing of daily life and relationships together is already invaluable.



Behold!

Recent visitors from the International House of Prayer in Kansas City (where 24/7 prayer has been happening for 23 years!) encouraged us

to consider that all discipleship starts with Beholding Jesus.

be·hold

/bəˈhōld/

to see or observe (a thing or person, especially a remarkable or impressive one).

The past six weeks have been full of getting a new staff going, setting up Job Descriptions, hosting visitors, receiving teachers, updating the Staff Manual (who knew we had one?!), starting the Vida220 school, helping a few staff and alumni get a small business grant to support themselves, praying for wisdom, celebrating Bekah's 16th birthday, and leading on... Yet under and over and through it all, we are challenged to inwardly focus and BEHOLD Jesus.

Behold Jesus "holding all things together" as we examine vibrantly alive bacteria in pond scum under a microscope.

Behold Jesus at work in each of the students who are here for this Vida220 school- each young leaders with so much potential!

Behold Jesus at work in our own children, helping them become who He has designed them to be.

Behold Jesus for who He is in the Bible, meek and gentle of heart toward the broken...

Behold Jesus who designed the Blue Morpho caterpillar and butterfly so perfectly.

Behold Jesus who by His Spirit and through a New Testament drew a Russian man to himself during the days of Communism and recently brought that man and his family as refugees to Costa Rica and to the other side of the supper table on Saturday night.

Being around teachers, visitors, and students who have known Jesus in different ways than we have makes us desire to know Him more - the real, historical but present, living Jesus!

Will we contemplate Jesus during times of worship, during a disagreement, and while cleaning the house? We are challenged to "Come and See..." (John 1:45) Wow. There's so much more of Him to behold.

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Phil and Linda being here boosts our ministry and encourages our hearts.

Weekly Updates?
(from a different angle)

Since coming to Costa Rica, Melanie's dad, Phil, has been inspired to restart a weekly "update" as he did during their many years in Africa. Melanie, on the other hand, has not been doing these for quite some time, so...

Would you like to hear from "us" more often? While this is from Phil's perspective, he and Linda's experiences intersect with many aspects of our lives. Let Melanie know if you want to receive these weekly emails! Here are two examples.

October 2- reflecting on daily rhythms (Vida220 and homeschool)

October 10-, reflecting in depth on this week's Vida220 teaching and dad's birthday!

You'll also see how ridiculous blessed we are to have them here. We knew they would love us as a family, but they are also diving into relationships with "our people" here at VidaNet: inviting others over for tea, spending time interceding in the prayer room, using an app for Spanish translation, fixing broken things, and just loving people. Not every 70+-year-old lady who visits asks how to use the power washer to clean the always moss-covered sidewalks in her free time, but not every lady is like my mama!