

THE THOMAS FAMILY

Serving Together Since 2016 • Panama

Family Updates

Hello Everyone! As I write this newsletter, Kendra has all three kids sitting down for homeschool! She is definitely super mom! We are so excited about homeschooling as it gives us greater access to our kids. We know it's not for everyone, but our hope has been to have a greater impact on our children's upbringing by being more intentional with what we are teaching them. Every morning Kendra and I pray together that our children would be taught of the Lord and serve Him all the days of their lives.

Since starting school on August 24, Noah and Ezra have excelled. Noah has been learning to read longer and more challenging books on his own. On Mondays, I usually read through a book with him, and then throughout the week, on his own, he has to practice that book. On Fridays, he then has to read the whole book to the family. The way he beams with pride and joy after reading a book to us is absolutely priceless! Also, Ezra has started to read words all by himself! The boys love math and science as well since Kendra does a great job of making it interactive and hands-on.

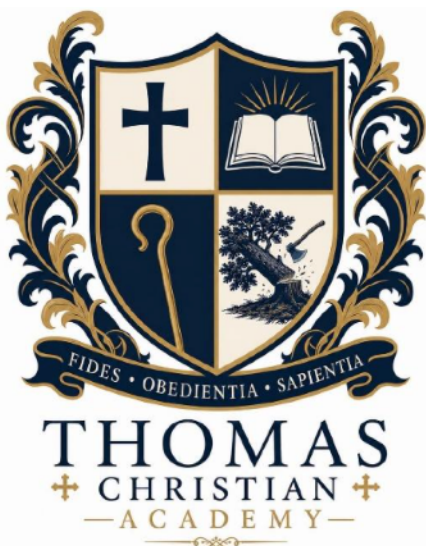
Each morning they make their beds, go on a hike with me, then after breakfast we have praise and worship, prayer, and end with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flags (both US and Christian) and the Bible before school starts. As for Esther, she continues to blossom before our eyes. She absolutely loves princess movies and is constantly dancing, singing, and making food for all her stuffed animals. When I have to go out for a meeting or grocery shopping, she usually accompanies me since she loves to go out and explore! She has also started to do more schooling with Kendra, which she thoroughly enjoys.

Also, a unique thing we did for school was use AI to create a crest for Thomas Christian Academy (photo included below). **The Cross represents the foundation of their schooling, which will always be based in Christ. The Bible represents wisdom and knowledge that come from Him, and we should always seek it out. The Shepherd's Staff is both the Lord's and our guidance as parents, to keep them on the right path and from foolish ways. The Tree being cut down represents courage to do what is right in the face of opposition.** This story is about Boniface, a missionary to the Germanic peoples. When he arrived in the village, he saw that the locals worshipped this tree, named Thor's Oak. So Boniface, in defiance of their god, cut down the tree and used the wood to build a church, showing that God is above all other idols. In addition, the motto of our school is Faith, Obedience, and Wisdom. **We want our children to be raised in the Lord, so they will faithfully serve Him, no matter the cost.**

On September 4th, we celebrated Ezra's 5th birthday. Since he loves all things Toy Story right now, we made it the theme of his birthday party. We all had an absolute blast. Seeing the boy he is turning into today is amazing! Ezra is sweet, full of joy and jokes, and loves others well!

Kendra, for the past four weeks, has had several health issues, and the doctors believe it is Erythema Nodosum (EN). Basically, she has painful nodules and swelling in her legs and joints.

This makes it very difficult for her to walk around, stand, and sometimes even sit for extended periods of time. When she is not teaching, she has her legs propped up to bring the swelling down with an ice pack. We still do not know the root cause of the diagnosis. This week we will be going to a dermatologist, getting an MRI, and soon a biopsy to help the doctors better determine what is potentially causing it. **Please keep her in your prayers!**



Ministry Updates

Home life has been super busy, and so has the ministry. In our last newsletter, Kendra mentioned that we were about to hire a psychologist. Unfortunately, the potential hire did not pan out in the end but God knows and we continue to trust Him through this process. **Prayers would be appreciated, as we are still searching and praying weekly for a Christian social worker and psychologist to hire for the ministry.**

Additionally, we are making changes to our engineering team. After several delays, we hired a new team that we think will be better able to deliver what we need in a timely manner. I am hopeful this change will help us finish all the necessary paperwork we are in right now. **Please pray for God's grace and wisdom in all of this and that I will make the correct decisions.**

On Sunday, September 6, we started the first of a four-Sunday training on discipleship, brains, and joy. We have been reading books as a team and have gone through six months of training, learning more about how our brains are wired for joy, and how that helps us to become better disciples. We are hosting the conference at a local church, coming alongside the pastor to help ease his burdens, and also to encourage the church to rise up and not rely on the pastor to do everything. This gives our team an opportunity to hone in on all this information that we will eventually use to train the participants we will be working with at APP. **Please pray that the next three Sundays will be just as impactful as the first Sunday was!**

In other news, we were delighted to hear from a ministry partner of ours that the APP was chosen to be the benefactor of a 5k race/2k walk! This is a yearly event hosted by a non-profit, Grace In Motion, to raise money for different causes. The event is on October 10th, 2026, in Fort Lee, NJ. If you know of any friends or family who will be in the area, please encourage them to come out and help! You can register and receive more information here: <https://www.grace-in-motion.org/>. **I will most likely be there and would love to see everyone who can be as well!**

Lastly, please keep us in your prayers for strength and health, and please reach out if we can pray for you! God bless!



- Stephen, Kendra, Noah, Ezra, & Esther Lily

Support

Thank you for partnering with **Stephen Jr & Kendra Thomas** in seeing His Kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven! Thank you for your gifts and prayers.

To stand with **The Thomas Jr Family** financially, you can give online at cimissions.org/panama/ or make your check out to Cornerstone Int'l, memo **Panama - Thomas**, & mail in enclosed envelope.



po box 192
wilmore, ky 40390
1-800-859-4578
cimissions.org