



Avant Ministries

Jessica Jenkins | Global Engagement | avantministries.org

Providing Online Biblical Training & Resources in Spanish



Jessica & Scot Jenkins
December 2021

*"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

Luke 1:14 (ESV)

2021 Christmas Reflections

Funny how far off the point things have gotten with the Christmas season. As far as secular celebrations go, it's never been my favorite. High expectations of joy and cheer, often met with disappointment and sometimes depression.

Thanksgiving is by far my favorite holiday of the year. The focus on gratitude puts my heart in a position of joy. Yes, a position. Although joy can be expressed through emotion, true joy is a state of mind (or an attitude) influenced by the hope we have in our risen Savior whose birthday we celebrate during our Christmas traditions. Thanks to consumerism, those traditions have turned into celebrating "giving" as the reason for the season (not a bad thing but not *the* thing), or even "getting" as the focus.

I've found that directing my attention to the real reason for our festivities—praising God for the eternal hope we were given wrapped in swaddling clothes in that manger—is how to maintain an attitude of joy. Remembering that the hope of peace in eternal security is what moves us to praise instead of expecting our worldly gifts under the tree—gifts that break and fade over time. That is where the real joy is. That is why we celebrate. Because that baby grew up, lived a sinless life, and died to pay for the sins of the world. Giving hope to each individual who believes in Him. That's why we sing "glory to God in the highest". I'm praying you are singing the same thing!

Now for the updates

Ministry Update

The Obrero Fiel team has now evolved into an arm of our Avant organization called Global Engagement and we have doubled in size (see the zoom meeting screenshot).



We have a combination of supported missionaries, paid team members, and volunteers working together to provide resources to Spanish speakers who are eager to learn more about God and to make disciples around the world. I have a new title, "Head of IT and Web Development". I no longer have to worry about the administrative tasks (no more payroll, yay!). I'm able to focus on everything technical and the overall look of our different segments of ministry. Previously, I handled tech and web development, graphic



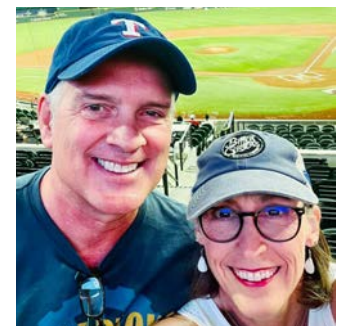
Winry turned three!



Natalie and Joe helping Winry celebrate.



Jessica holding Winry with Mom and Dad at the birthday party.



A sweet friend from our church gave us some really great tickets to the Rangers game.



Fundraiser for the Children's Advocacy Center for Kaufman County. L-R: Wendy (David's wife), Glee, Michelle, Amanda, Carol, Jessica, Stephanie, Mom.

design, marketing, team management, bill payment, payroll, and more. Now we have team members dedicated to most of these tasks, and my focus is on creating a better online experience and getting our Amazon book library “stocked.”

This may sound nerdy, but It’s so exciting for me to see how God has pulled this group together and how He’s using the internet to equip disciple-making disciples. Our vision is to see churches in the global south effectively participating in God’s mission. *See the insert for an overview of the ministries under the umbrella of Global Engagement.*

Family Update

Natalie and Carl are still in Corpus Christi. Natalie is at the tail-end of her coursework to receive her Bachelor’s degree. She took a leap of faith a few months ago and quit her job to begin her own business (freelance writing: online social media management and technical writing for small businesses). She’s doing an awesome job! Carson just finished boot camp and will be heading to Pensacola in a few weeks as he serves in the Coast Guard.

Amanda and Casey, still in Waxahachie, are raising their littles (one and three) and trying to keep up with them. They grow so fast! Amanda moved on from VIP Kid (lot’s of changes in the Chinese company), and accepted a position at her previous school, Green Oaks Academy. She is now the Reslife Administrative Director (the Reslife program is for the adult students living on a nearby college campus and learning/practicing life skills). She only has to work away from her babies two days a week and the rest of the work is from home. Thankfully there are enough grandparents to handle the babysitting, so no daycare is necessary!

Joe is still in Austin working for Aspyr Media in the marketing department. He continues to record music with his friends and can be found on Spotify and other online music services. That’s about all of the information I could pull out of him!

Not much has changed for **Scot and me**. He continues to work from home. They keep projecting when he will return to the office, but it hasn’t happened yet. We’ve both remained in relatively good health. I’ve come to accept the pain in my back and neck for what it is. It’s manageable for the foreseeable future, and I work to make sure it stays that way with exercise and home therapy. *Check out the photos/captions to see some of the things we did this year.*

Please find me on Facebook if you want to keep up with more life details and see lots more photos (ie. grandkids, dogs, and food).

Wrapping Things Up

I’d love to hear from you. Email me (jjenkins@avmi.org) or text/call (214-499-1560). Or better yet, let’s have coffee!

Please consider a year-end donation to help meet my ministry support deficit for 2021. I’m also in need of more monthly supporters for 2022. Please contact me for details or go to avantministries.org/give to sign up. Just put my name in the field and the amount, then on the next screen you can set up the frequency and payment.

You can also mail a check to Avant headquarters:
10000 N Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64155

**Thank you all so much for your prayers and support. It means more than you know!
Merry Christmas and Happy new Year from the Jenkins!**



Water fun with Alphonse and Winny.



Hanging out at the dog park.



Jessica's 10-year certificate as a missionary with Camino Global - Avant at Homecoming.



Spending time with neighborhood friends.



Beach sunset while visiting Jessica's brother in Florida.



Jessica and Rayna at the Van Gogh Immersive Experience.