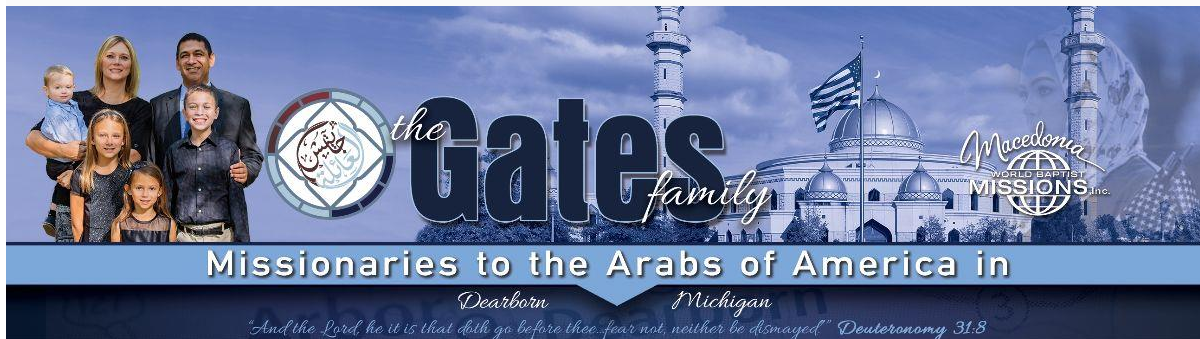


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God let friends influence me for His name. I mentioned Austin Gardner, who counseled me before I left for Egypt, and even now, He is a huge help. God let me meet Pastor Charles Blackstock, pastor of Lighthouse Baptist in Dawsonville GA. His teaching was fresh and sometimes proclaimed in ways I never thought of before. When I came back to the States, my parents dropped me off at Lighthouse Baptist for the second part of my training. I would work tirelessly with friends and staff. We started camps, SSchool classes, worked in staff meetings. I was able to receive one on one discipleship with Pastor Blackstock. I served with the Teens and a Singles/Career Class. I learned so much from Pastor Blackstock. While there during these times, I got to know Beth a lot better. We would be together and then she would break up!! It was tough and took a lot of prayer, but by the end of the internship, God had me going to Egypt. "Beth, I love Christ more than you and I know God wants me to go to Egypt with or without you." She answered, "I love Christ more than you, too." About a month later we prayed and knew the Lord would have us together!!

After deputation, we landed in Egypt and God let me still counsel with my friends in the most difficult of times. There was gunfire in front of our home during the 2011 Revolution in Egypt. The booms kept going off. "BOOM" Pastor Gardner then called at the right time and said, 'Don't be fearful, if you're fearful, your wife will be 100x more fearful. Pray and trust the Lord. Stay in, comfort and keep your family safe' God used Pastor Gardner, Pastor Coffey and Dean

Hamby from Macedonia World Baptist Missions to get us through.

When we came back to the States after language school, the government in Egypt was getting overthrown again. We were counseled to stay back until things calmed down. During that extra 2 months, I had a seizure and so did my son, Joshua. We had to head back to Egypt in just a few weeks and found out the day before leaving that Joshua had a rare condition called Tuberous Sclerosis. He has tumors on his brain and they can grow on his organs and body. While we were headed to the airport, it was all quiet, then Joshua started singing, "I have decided to follow Jesus." God used this to remind me the reason we were headed back to Egypt.

For the Christ,

David Gates and Family

