

Jeremy · Sandra · Carina · Barrett · Henry · Alex · Joanna

THE BARKER FAMILY

March 2026



Henry's Ministry

The beginning of February had us saying goodbye to our church family in Nigeria. I preached Sunday night on "Letting Down Your Nets" and surrendering to God's will. I said, "If you want to see what God can really do, you can't stay where you are comfortable." Little did I know how true that would become for our family.



Last Sunday in Nigeria



Finally getting to hold him

I want to start by bragging on God. For two weeks in November, I searched for flights to return to the U.S. for the birth of our sixth child. The government shutdown caused Lufthansa to suspend all flights, and the day after Thanksgiving, I stayed up all night trying to find a route. God provided one that was cheaper, the same total travel time, and included a layover in Greece. Less than 24 hours after landing in Athens, Henry was diagnosed with his tumor. Medical staff told us that if we had taken our original flight, the pressurization could have killed him.



Church in Greece



All hooked up at Duke

While in the hospital in Greece, I researched the best places in the U.S. for surgery, and Duke Children's Hospital was near the top. Sandra called, and the first person to answer was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church of Durham, who helped us get in quickly. When Henry wasn't stable enough to travel, we could only extend our lodging by one day. Lighthouse Baptist Church of Rome, Ohio, connected us with a former member living in Athens, who secured a place five minutes from the hospital.



Taking the subway to church in Greece



Right before making it to Duke Children's Hospital

After returning to the U.S., Henry's first nurse at Duke was also from Fellowship Baptist. His respiratory therapist went to Hyles-Anderson College and had my father-in-law as a teacher. Three of his medical staff have been from Nigeria. When our van had mechanical issues, Liberty Baptist Church of Durham connected us with a mechanic, who has been a tremendous help.



Barrett and Alex sharing a bed



The hospital bed in Greece

Long before any of this began, Sandra's parents had planned to take their furlough a year early. God's timing placed them in the U.S. right when we needed them most. Because they were already here, they have been able to care for our other children while Sandra and I live in Henry's hospital room. This was especially important one night when Henry declined so suddenly that we almost lost him. Moments like that make us want to stay by his side as much as possible. This is the most aggressive case of Grade 4 Medulloblastoma the chief of neuro-oncology has ever seen.



Carina and Barrett falling asleep after a long ride



Joanna knew something was wrong.

Almost the entire month of February has found one or both of us in the hospital with Henry. Through God's grace, we have passed out over 150 tracts at Duke, most of them "Joel's Story," about a 12-year-old boy treated here for bone cancer. Very few people have turned them down, and many have thanked us. We are calling this Henry's ministry here at the hospital.

**Working hard to bring fruit to your account,
Jeremy, Sandra, Carina, Barrett, Henry, Alex, & Joanna Barker**

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