

A FAMILY ON MISSION

Jesus & Kalon Martinez

Who do you serve?

There is always that point of NO TURNING BACK.

Like the moment last January, when we said yes to Ride Nature and the idea of working "for no pay."
 Like the moment we filled our car to the brim with our 2 kids plus 3 foster teens and all their worldly possessions, laughing, crying, overjoyed and terrified; bringing them home for that first night last February.
 Like the moment Jesus turned down an all-expense paid artist's contract with the music industry last June, knowing that God has called him into missionary work instead.
 Like the moment we took our entire savings on the road and announced ourselves as missionaries last October.
 Like the moment on our trip when our daughter cried because she felt God more personally than ever before.
 Or like the moment, the most precious moment, when we reflected on our life and realized we are ALL IN; that come hell or high-water, we will serve the Lord our God. We praise Him for these moments of 2019!

Places we travelled ...



BOLIVIA



USA



CUBA

2019 RECAP & HIGHLIGHTS

12 new partnerships, inc.:

- RIDE NATURE!
- Children's Network of SWFL
- Dpt. of Juvenile Justice
- Taking the City Ministries
- Boys & Girls Club of SWFL
- One More Child
- Into the Jordan

Main goals accomplished:

- Fostered 3 teenage siblings
- Helped a young dad transition into fatherhood in our home
- Visited 3 countries & 22 states
- Befriended our local homeless
- Closed our business & launched our fundraising campaign!

7 memorable things:

- 5 kids, a baby and a full house!
- Hitting a deer in Chilhowie, VA
- 74 days of road-tripping!
- Relying on God's provision 100%
- Brad's life transformed by God
- Mission work full-time!
- Re-writing Christmas!

"Whether you eat or drink... do all to the glory of God." / Cor. 10:31



WILLINGTON, CONNECTICUT

A PURPOSE-FILLED NEWSLETTER

God is on the move and has us running fast! As much as possible we want to bring you alongside us in the adventure. Each newsletter will feature the stories we collect as we journey forward, as well as invitations to pray with us and get involved. We hope to introduce you to simple examples of daily ministry while also deepening our relationships with each of you! 2020 will be a big year for us - So far our mission trips will take us to Cuba, Nicaragua, Jamaica, Ethiopia, and Costa Rica! We will also continue to expand our ministry reach and partnerships locally in Southwest Florida. Can't wait to see what happens!

WHAT IS RIDE NATURE?

Ride Nature is a 501(c3) global mission organization focused on equipping leaders worldwide to utilize action sports such as surfing, skating, and snowboarding for OUTREACH, EVANGELISM, and DISCIPLESHIP. It has just celebrated it's 10 year anniversary and in Summer of 2020 is launching it's first international base in San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua. Our positions here are Community Outreach Directors, and as such we are leading Ride Nature to greater local partnerships where action sports can be used as a catalyst for healing, joy and light in dark spaces- such as trauma victims, at-risk youth, and recovery programs. We also lead Ride Nature's homeless ministry.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF FORT MYERS



THANKSGIVING PRAYER, FORT MYERS

BUILDING BRIDGES

Thanksgiving 2019 was a humbling, inspirational experience. We invited those of our church Community Group to cook for and eat with those from our weekly Ride Nature homeless breakfast. Those who cooked did so with love and great care. They made double and triple of each recipe! Our resident homeless were taken aback by the sumptuous tastes and generous portions, and by the humanizing attention of those serving them. We had about 75 people join us, ranging from doctors to drug addicts, all sharing space and conversation. Praise God, as through his Holy Spirit the lines between "us & them" were blotted out and what was left was simply people loving on people. Our homeless friends still ask us about when this will happen again! And so for 2020, we'll host quarterly "King's Table" dinners, inviting our friends from all walks of life to come together in one accord, lifting one another up. If you'll be in town, be sure to ask us about the next one coming up!

Love the Lord with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind. Matt 22:37



NEIGHBOR LOVE

A strong mother, a hard working father, 3 boys and 2 girls. These are the inhabitants of a single motel room about a five minute drive from us.

While knocking on doors delivering turkeys for Christmas, one of the people told us about them. This mom burst into tears when she saw the gifts in our hands. We told her that God sees her and he cares, and that she is not alone in her trials. Please join us in prayer this month as we continue to visit this family with food and other needs. Please pray for God in their hearts, and for progress in their living circumstances. Thank you!



**"ON THE DAY I CALLED,
YOU ANSWERED ME; YOU
MADE ME BOLD WITH
STRENGTH IN MY SOUL."**

- PSALM 138:3

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

THE MARTINEZ FAMILY: "A FAMILY ON MISSION"

(Each month we'll highlight a person or project in our ministry. For our first newsletter, we'll introduce ourselves!)

If there was one thing to know about us it's this: We seek God! We seek and we learn. What we learn leads to more seeking, which leads to more learning, and on it goes... Through all this, He asks us to work for Him. And so we do!

If there's another thing to know about us it's this: we are messy. We strive to live by God's word alone, but we aren't perfect. So we stick to the main points: Love God with all your heart & Love others as yourself. Everything begins and ends with this.

We work in places that are messy too! Foster care. Juvenile Detention Centers. Rehabs. Teen pregnancy centers. The Hood. The bush villages that the homeless create. Oh! And Churches. In January of 2019 we signed on with an organization called Ride Nature. Through this partnership the Lord has multiplied our opportunities and ability to help people in these messy areas both abroad and in our own town.

Finally, we believe in setting easy examples of ministry that anyone can learn and replicate, at any age, from wherever they are. If you want to learn more visit us at afamilyonmission.com.

Also follow us on Facebook to learn more & get involved!

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." 1 Chron. 16:34



IN HONOR OF LEE HOLLIS LITCHFIELD

Your joyful presence and love for God is still felt amongst all you loved while you were here. Thank you Uncle Lee for the legacy you created and the imprint you left behind. Your beautiful wife continues your heart for God's Kingdom, and thanks to you both we were empowered to become foster parents and provide a safe home to kids for the past two years. I still hear your laughter in the air, and the day we meet again can't come soon enough. I love you Uncle Lee & Aunt Trisha. ~Kalon

Donation Information:

WE ARE 100% GOD-FUNDED, YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Become a monthly sponsor for \$50, \$75 or \$100 ~ visit afamilyonmission.com to donate.

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Contact us for more info ~ Jesus@RideNature.com / Kalon@RideNature.com

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