

3 years in Arizona – WOW, where has the time gone?

It was September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 I headed south on I-5 toward Phoenix. Except for a small PODS container I had shipped to a Mesa, AZ warehouse, all my worldly possessions, my office, my Lola Beans dog, Kenton, and myself were stuffed into a 2013 Ford Focus HB and headed out on a new adventure.

Without a thought or plan, we made our way to Arizona stopping the first night in Medford, OR. By the night of day two, September 14, 2014 we were in Daly City, CA stopping so Kenton could meet a friend he had chatted with for a long time on PlayStation but never met. They had a fun time and still keep in touch. The third night we spent just off the freeway I-10 in Palm Desert, CA with the car pointed east to the final stretch. It was that night I scoured the internet on my laptop to arrange a motel in Scottsdale where we would arrive September 16, 2014.

After 8 days in a motel, I secured a lease on a nice home in Chandler, AZ. We moved into 556 W Jasper Dr in Chandler, AZ on the 25<sup>th</sup> without anything but the contents of the Focus. I had a Sleep Number air bed that I stuffed into the PODS unit so by the second night in the rental house I had the PODS delivered and had Kenton, myself, and Lola all sleeping on a King mattress in the middle of my master bedroom; it was like camping!

The next day, a stop at the local discount furniture store, I scored some inexpensive furniture for the house and most of it was delivered immediately. Quickly the rental house began to look like a home with Kenton excited about his new bedroom furniture and own room, and me about a couches to sit on, my new bedroom furniture, a dining room table, and office furniture to setup my business space.

After a year of renting and looking for homes to buy, the rental became available for purchase and after much negotiations I was able to purchase the home, closing by the end of January 2016.

In these 3 short years I have had so many guests: Lucia and her mom here twice and a third time just recently, Maureen here once, my Brother and his wife and Kids, my Renton, WA neighbors stop in as they were passing through, my cousin Cindy and her family 3 times and her niece Sarah once. Kenton had a friend passing through spend a week also – I'm thankful for whoever invented air beds! ...and SURPRISE, I just booked a flight for my Mother to visit the day after Thanksgiving this year for week, I never thought I'd see that happen!