



IR Family News

January, 2015

The Off Season

-Renita

IGo is in its 'off season' ... no classes, no students, and no teachers. The building is lonely and dirty with only a leftover pen, picture or paper left behind to remind us of what was just a few weeks ago.

There are a few IGo students still here in Chiang Mai this year researching future ministry opportunities in countries around us. So there are still occasional trips to the airport to drop them off and pick them up again.

The building also housed about 15 men and women from Bhutan who were out here to attend a conference. This next week there is a group from India who desired more teaching and the use of the IGo building for a retreat for their people. Some staff from here (Rick included) will be teaching daily while they are here.

Rick has been spending his days at his office at IGo studying and preparing for future classes and sermons. He also has a few meetings with other staff here and there, but not near the load of meetings that plague him during the IGo terms. It has been nice for him to have more time to spend with the children. He has also been spending some time with Sam (our Jehovah Witness friend) discussing the Bible and salvation. How we long for him to become a Christian!

RaVonne has been taking an online photography course and helping out here at home. I enjoy the times that she takes over on cooking for our troop. We are praying for clear direction for her future here.

Our 5 oldest boys have been trudging off to school each day since Christmas vacation came

to an end. It has been hard for them to get back into the routine of school again. Also, it brings up the adjustments *again* ... so there have been more tears, prayers, long talks and hard mornings before surrendering to another day at a very small school.

Our family has been enjoying more evenings at home - sometimes eating early and playing games afterwards, sometimes working on projects together and eating late. This is a delight to the mother, but can feel a bit lonely to the older children who miss all the action of the youth group and school they miss from last year.

My life hasn't changed a whole lot since the students left ... I still need to buy tons of food, do piles of laundry, chase after two little boys, cook, discipline, interact with neighbors and their children, and enjoy my family and life here! I don't have the additional job of mentoring and for now I am enjoying the break!

We see the months racing by here and know that we are headed back to classes once again. We're praying for 24 students to bring life and energy to the quiet building in Koolpunteville 5, Chiang Mai. And we're hoping and praying that we will be ready to enter the busy, structured life that IGo classes bring back to us again. ♦



Christmas Vacation

-Riley Rhodes

This past Christmas our family had a great Christmas full of everything from family soccer to having friends over to celebrate one of the most important days of the year.



Our family had the IGo staff at our house the day after Christmas. We had a wonderful meal and then after that we had a fun time of games and snacks.



The Rhodes family also spent an afternoon at a futsal field (futsal is soccer on a smaller field). We did this on New Year's Day as a way to celebrate RaMont's birthday.

Us boys set up the tents in the back yard and slept out in them just about every night. It was a good way to take advantage of the cooler weather that we have been enjoying here in Thailand. ♦

Depleted?

Have you ever felt depleted? You are required to give in so many areas. Sometimes it is as if there is nothing left to give! How can you go on?

Psalm 57 encouraged me this month when I felt like I couldn't keep serving! It begins with "Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. I will cry unto God most high; **unto God that performeth all things for me.**" And later on it states – "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise." Fixed means made ready or prepared... almost the idea of standing at attention. Wow! God gives us what we need when we need it! We can take refuge in God and cry out to Him and He will make us ready! -Renita



AMAZING THAILAND

Orchids are one of the most beautiful flowers in Thailand! We have been enjoying their beauty in our yard at a cost of only \$2.50 for a pot of them.

Please pray with us for...

- *Salvation for our friend, Sam (JW).
- *Our unsaved neighbors ... that we would know how to witness to them.
- *Rick as he teaches church leaders from India this next week.
- *24 IGo students for this next year.
- *Praise God for good health.
- *Praise God with us for Christmas boxes and cards from home!

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