



R Family News

August, 2014

Changes Still Hurt

Here we are, at the end of our furlough. The time has come to return to Thailand. We have done a fair amount of moving and traveling and have faced numerous changes as a family in the past 13 years, so we should be well prepared for this one. If prepared means that we know how to pack and move – we're prepared. If prepared means we know there are changes ahead of us and we have faced these kinds of changes before – we're prepared. If prepared means we are used to saying goodbyes and it doesn't hurt – we are NOT prepared. It still hurts! I have this lump in the bottom of my stomach just like when we first moved to Grenada back in 2001. There is a feeling of excitement for what lies ahead, mixed with a load of pain and dread in saying goodbye to so many dear people on this side of the world. The other day I told Renita that I believe this is the biggest or hardest move yet for our family. The reason being – our children are older and have deeper relationships. Our children are no longer just waving goodbye and excitedly hoping on an airplane. They are leaving relationships that are dear to their hearts. They are realizing the reality of the cost of leaving family and friends. Our 6 yr. old son, Reggie, said it well the other day. "Half of me wants to go back to Thailand and half of me wants to stay here in the states."

Don't get me wrong, we enjoy our work in Thailand with IGo, we know that this is what God has called us to do, and we love the people that we work with! But you just can't spend a year in the states and pour your heart into a church/school/community and walk away without pain. My last day of school was a hard one for me. I just cried, knowing that I am leaving these kids and I will not be back to teach them this coming school year. We have spent a lot of time crying with our children about the goodbyes coming up. No, this move is not an easy one. We need God's grace to go on! And God's grace will be sufficient. Praise God! We are blessed with so many faithful prayer supporters. Thank You! By praying for our family, you are joining us in the work that God has called us to do. Thanks for working with us in this Kingdom work!

Please pray for our family as we leave Friday morning, August 8. We are scheduled to leave Philadelphia at 10:15 a.m. and arrive 25 hours later in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

-Rick Rhodes



RaVonne graduated from Fairview Christian School on June 4, 2014! We are excited with her as she has now finished up all those years of school! What a monumental time! Pray for her as she seeks God's plan for the next chapter of her life!

Rhodes Family Financial Support

As we return to Thailand to continue serving with IGo, we need to raise approximately \$2,500 per month for our family's support. If you would like to be a part of the work we are doing with IGo by supporting our family financially, you can send your donations to:

Institute for Global Opportunities
P.O. Box 116
Ephrata, PA 17522

Mark your donations "Rhodes Family Support". 100% of what you give goes toward our family's support and you will receive a receipt from IGo for your gift. Thanks so much for your support!

Highlights of
April – July



- Rylan's 3rd Birthday
- Visiting Grandpa Hostetler's in Colorado over Easter
- Experiencing spring again after 8 years
- Reid's 11th birthday
- Renita spending time with her sister, Rachele
- Rodney's field trip to the Crayola factory
- RaVonne, Riley, RaMont & Rick getting to attend International Student Convention (the highlight being the revival that God did in the Fairview High School students!)
- RaVonne Graduating!
- Reggie graduating from Kindergarten
- Riley & RaMont getting to go to Colorado for H.I.K.E.
- Starting the packing/sorting process
- RaVonne's 19th birthday
- Spending time with the extended Yoder family
- All 50 of the Rhodes' actually being together for about 24 hours
- Running the 10k race between Nashwauk & Keewatin, MN
- Riley's 16th birthday
- Reggie's 6th birthday
- Rondel's 1st birthday
- Trip to Philadelphia with IGo staff friends: Katelyn, Lorida, LaRonda

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for us this week: that we would finish well in Reading, PA; that we would pursue our children in the midst of all the stress, work & changes; that we would enter into the work in Thailand with energy!
- Pray for safe flights and good connections on Friday, August 8. We have 25 hours of flights & layovers.
- Pray that our children would do well while traveling ... that we could actually, really rest! ☺
- Pray that we would transition well back into IGo with renewed vision!

Thanks!