



R Family News

September, 2014

Familiar, Yet Unfamiliar

Coming back to Thailand after 14 months away is like walking into your own familiar kitchen and when opening the cupboards you realize nothing is in the same place anymore. The city of Chiang Mai has changed and IGo has even more. It ranges from being as simple as the new fatter straws in the drink boxes to the more complicated process of relating to the dozen or more new staff that have come in the last 18 months. (And unbelievably there's been more who've come and gone!) Our kids' school has changed, mentoring has changed, church has changed, Sunday School has changed, the ministries have changed, IGo building has changed, recreation at IGo has changed, and so on. In the city there are new McDonalds, new, bigger malls, new 7-11's, new coffee shops and old ones closed, new restaurants and old ones closed, new neighbors and new housing developments. And undoubtedly people have changed.

With all of these mind-boggling changes to face, how do we as a family even begin to adjust? Not only are we trying to find our way through the maze of changes, but we ourselves have changed. Life in a different culture in Reading has molded us. Our kids going to a big school has left its mark. Experiencing rich friendships and observing urban church workers has grown us. Our world view has expanded as well as our lives. We'll never fit back in the same mold as before. I am not finding lots of answers in all the questions right now, but I'm just crying out to the God who doesn't change in the middle of all the stress.◇

-Renita Rhodes



2014 Second Semester Students



Our 'Country Parkville' Home In Chiang Mai

We are very glad that we got to move back into the same house that we've rented for almost 5 years now (our replacement family lived in it while we were on sabbatical). We are realizing once again how much of a gift it is with a backyard big enough for our boys to shoot soccer balls or play football and a quiet road front where we have a basketball hoop sitting and on which the boys can practice their biking or rollerblade skills. The house has plenty of room for us and our landlord has been very generous to us. We are thankful!





We had one last High School party at FCS for our children before we left Reading. Lots of good memories...and sad farewells.



Prayer time for our family at Fairview Mennonite church before we left.

Our 20th anniversary celebration!



I celebrated my 40th birthday since moving to Thailand. Rick took us as a family to a resort for a celebration! It was very relaxing – praise the Lord!

Pray that...

- **God would use the transition/adjustment period in our lives right now for His Glory and our good!**
- **Our family would pull together through this hard time and not apart!**
- **We would look for the good and give praise to God right now.**
- **We could find a 'miracle' of a vehicle for our family to upsize to.**
- **Our students would be safe and minister to others on their ministry trips the next two weeks.**