

Rosstracks

April 2011

Homeward Bound!

Can you believe that it has been 5 years since we packed up our family and headed to Thailand?! Back then, Kristen was just entering 8th grade, Tyler 5th grade, and Sarah was only 4 years old. Fast-forward 5 years ~ Kristen is graduating from high school, Tyler is finishing his freshman year, and Sarah is finishing 4th grade.



So now, it is time for us to spend some quality time back home in the US. We will be taking a 7 month furlough and will be based in Fullerton, CA from June 4, 2011 – December 29, 2011. We are looking forward to eating American food, speaking English wherever we go and being understood,* and most of all ~ spending time with our wonderful family and friends.

Furlough Needs

If you have (or know of) a house-sit situation during the period of time we will be in the US, even if it's just for a few days, we would love to hear about it. We will mostly be staying with family, but we would love to be able to give them a break now and then from having us underfoot all the time. We hope to visit the Vancouver, Washington area sometime in July or August and will need a place to stay there as well.

We would love to have use of a car for any part of the time that we will be in the US.

We need places and people to share our ministry with. Our support has dropped significantly while we have been here due to people and churches struggling with the economy and the drop in value of the dollar against the Thai baht. We will need to add supporters, and ideally another church as well, in order to raise what we need to be able to return. We love our ministry here and have booked our return flight in December on faith that we will have the funds we need to return at that time. Please let us know if you have a place we can share.



At Christmas this year we went up the nearby mountain on ATVs.



Dale & Becky Burke came and spoke at our SIL conference this month. Yeah!



Us in 05/06 getting ready to depart.

Prayer Needs

We have more to do before we leave than time to do it in (can you relate?). Please pray that we can get everything packed up and finished before we leave.

Please pray for our colleagues (expats and nationals) while we are gone as there isn't anyone to fill in for us completely while we are on furlough. Some parts of our jobs will be absorbed by others who are already overworked and other parts will go undone until we

return. John has already had to comfort a national who burst into tears when he mentioned our furlough.

Ministry Update

With fewer computer staff here at this time, it has been very busy lately providing computer and translation software support. Our team to the north, which I (John) am a part of, will begin working with some new languages next month. At least two of these groups don't have a working orthography (alphabet) yet and the literacy rate is very low. In addition to training the national Bible translators, our group will provide literacy training and scripture use training. The computer staff is kept busy setting up custom fonts and keyboards, and helping with the translation software issues.

Thank you for your support which allows us to continue providing God's word to these minority language groups.



Sarah and I put together a gingerbread house kit from an organization in town that helps girls rescued from trafficking.

With anticipation of seeing you soon,

John, Kimberly, Kristen, Tyler, & Sarah Ross

<http://www.rosstracks.com>

*I have a funny story that relates to our looking forward to being understood. At the market the other day I *thought* I asked for 1 kilo of chicken separated into 2 bags. However, when I asked the man behind the counter for that he just stared at me. Kristen, who was with me and speaks better Thai than I, put her hand on my shoulder and said, "Um, Mom, *what is it you are you trying to say?*" "What *did* I say?" I ask. "You asked him to give you 1 kilo of chicken separated at 8pm." Oops. Time is measured a bit differently here and 8pm is the second hour of the evening. The word for evening is very much like the word for bag. Unfortunately, she didn't know the proper tone for bag either, but the kind man behind the counter figured out what we wanted by our hand gestures, and I did end up with 2 bags of chicken at ½ kilo each separated right then and not at 8pm. ☺



Tyler is on the JV Volleyball team this year.