



Pack those boxes...It's Moving Time!

What exciting times these are! In just the last few months, God has built up our Support Team completely so that we are now able to make the big move to the Philippines! We have plane tickets for our family to depart at 1 am on Friday morning, July 23rd.

After 7 or so years of planning, preparing, and fund raising, it has always seemed like the time for us to move to the field was taking forever. Today, it seems like moving day is coming at us like a speeding bullet! These weeks are full of activity, as you can imagine. Between packing, holding garage sales, dealing with shipping companies, and getting all the vaccinations for our family (would you believe, a combined total of 33 shots this month?), it seems like we hardly have time to take a breath! One thing we have been doing that has been really wonderful is spending extra time with family and friends before we leave. We are spending July 4th weekend on a road trip to San Francisco to visit Sean's brother and his family; we will have some of Jessica's family stay with us from Kansas; and of course, we'll be having the grandparents over as often as possible!



How blessed we truly are!



Tyler is a healthy, happy, growing baby boy who is adored by his big brothers and older sister (how strange it is to think of Gracie as "older"). Gracie is 2 years old and so far has been really great with Tyler. She can't seem to stop holding him and kissing him. Tyler's big brothers chose his first name, and we gave him his middle name in honor of his great grandfather, Hershel, who is now rejoicing with our Lord in Heaven. Tyler's great grandmother, Mary, was delighted.

It felt weird tearing it down . . .

It felt weird tearing down the wooden play area and swing set that I had built for the kids about ten years ago. Kian, Christian, and Grace have all enjoyed swinging, climbing, jumping and playing on it. At first, no one noticed me walking into the back yard with a drill, wrench, and small sledge hammer. Kian and Christian came running out as I began removing the swings and breaking the frame apart with my hammer. They asked, "Can we swing on it one more time?" I halted my work to allow for one last go at the swings. Most of the things that we are leaving behind were obvious to us. Others,



like the swing set, keep popping up. I think I might bring one of the swings with us and try to hang it from something in the Philippines. Hopefully that will give the kids a sense of familiarity and home. Every time I become aware of something that we have to give up, I am continually reminded that Jesus is SO worth it! The apostle Paul wrote in Philip. 3:7-8 "But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ."



What will our First Year on the Field look like?

Some of you may be wondering what we will be doing once we get there. Our long term vision is to launch a church planting movement by establishing a Training Center for church planting which will then send out church planters. That being said, a venture like that doesn't happen over night. The Evangelical Free Church has some required training for us before they will let us loose on our own. The focus of our first year will be on learning to speak Tagalog (A Filipino language). Year two will take us to the next step in our training process. During this time will be doing part-time Tagalog study and a part-time internship on a church planting team in Metro Manila. After two years we will move to southern Luzon and start church planting on our own. Once we have planted our first church, our desire is to begin the training and sending center where we will begin to train nationals to plant churches. In the meantime, our first weeks in Manila will be busy trying to find a home to live in, getting our kids started in school (the semester begins August 3rd), buying a used car or van to get the kids to school in, and hosting our short term mission team from Shepherd's Community Church. Please remember us in your prayers.

Praise God for . . .

- For the birth of our beautiful son, Tyler.
- For building up 100% of our support team.
- For a wonderful send-off from our church family who showered us with love.
- For helping us to find the right company to ship our belongings
- For helping our family get through 33 different Shots within a 21 day period
- For providing 100% of the finances needed for our short term mission team from Shepherds
- For providing precious friends to manager our Home for us as we rent it out.

Please Pray for . . .

- For our emotional well-being as we leave our family and friends
- For the details of our move to fall smoothly into place (our container arriving in tact, etc)
- The boys as they start their new school the week after we arrive
- The Short Term Mission Team and our activities July 31- August 14
- For God's hand in finding a place to live
- For God to provide the right vehicle for us at a good price
- For the transition in our ministry back home.