



It's here...the moment that I want to delay as much as possible, but I can't. I feel like I am a reluctant athlete, knowing that the race time has come. I am stretching, putting my toe to the line and getting in position. I don't feel ready. I don't feel prepared. It's going to start and it is going to be fast and grueling. It's going to be hard on my body and on my mind, but there is nothing I can do but get ready. Time doesn't wait for anyone and I can't slow it down. The time has come to get my toe on the line, because the shot will be fired in just a few hours and there will be no stopping once it has begun.

What race am I referring to? It's called semester 2 of the school year! It's a frantic busy semester that already has a calendar bursting at the seams with events---sports trips, tournaments, music trips, service trips, banquets, ceremonies, graduation...and it will be madness, going from one thing to another, trying to catch my breath. In the midst of all that we teach, we work, and we study---trying to get the required done while inundated with other things...and it will all go by in *a blink of an eye*.

The reason I don't want it to go by so fast is because this is it---the last semester with my senior. At some point in the craziness of this semester, Ryan will pack up all he owns. In the summer we will bring him to the United States, the country of his passport, but a foreign country to him. There is so much he does not know about living there---about the culture, the people, and the expectations. We will try to help him find a place to be and then...I can barely type the words...we have to come back to the place we serve, leaving him to find his way. He is ready for independence and opportunity, but it is scary for him as well. I feel that too. If I could slow this down I would, but I can't. All I can do is love, teach and pray in this semester...asking God to go before my boy, preparing the way for him. So many people I know and love have gone through this, having their kids leave the nest. My heart feels the crushing sadness of the 10,000 miles of the great Pacific that will separate us and the challenge of placing the life of my son in His hands. (All that to say, I'm shedding big fat silent lonely tears as I type this and it is only January.)

The weight of this adds an element of added stress to a time that is already uniquely stressful. We have a very short time in the States and many people to see. Added to that normal schedule, we need to do whatever we can to help Ry get connected to a new world. We would really appreciate your prayers as we try to get ready for the transition to a new world. Please pray that things would come together for him smoothly so that we can feel comfortable and confident in his next steps. Please pray for our

travels and plans over the period of a very busy few weeks. We don't own a home or a vehicle there---- and we have to rely on others for help and support. We really appreciate how you have helped us with our needs in the past and we know that God will go before us putting everything in order for this trip too.

So far these are our plans and some of the needs we have. If you can help us, we would appreciate it so much!

-Ryan is going to be settling for a time in or around Seattle. He will try to get a vehicle, a job, and a place to live and then may possibly attend a community college after establishing residency. If you have a lead on an affordable room/apt to rent, a job, or a church to connect with, we'd appreciate your help.

-June 18: Arrive in Seattle- We will need some help possibly with transport from/to the airport on June 18 and June 23

-June 23: Depart for/arrive in Indianapolis- We will need help with transport from the airport to Anderson

-June 23-July 10th: Need a place to stay in Anderson (off and on, between travels) and are looking for a vehicle to use at least in Indiana and possibly two out-of-state trips. Since our time in Indiana will be limited, we are also looking for a venue to host a gathering or two, where friends can all gather in one place and visit (so we won't miss seeing anyone).

-CHOG convention June 24-26 in Anderson

-June 27th-30th in Maryland (sharing at Glen Burnie)

-July 3rd-July 8th in Iowa: looking for a place to stay in North Central Iowa

-July 10th: Fly back to Seattle- We will need some help to return to the airport in Indianapolis from Anderson

-July 25th: Fly back to Penang

The time is so short and I know that we will need to passionately live in the moment, soaking up the time we have with family and friends. We are excited to see your faces, give you hugs and share your sorrows and joys...and then, as I mentioned earlier, we are equally reluctant for this visit to come, for we know the separation it will also bring.

Please pray for us this semester—that we would soak up our moments with our family and enjoy our last times of truly being a family of five. Pray for us as we travel to Indonesia for Ryan to “say goodbye” in March. If you can help with one of our needs listed above, please let us know. Please pray for Ryan, that God would work on preparing him personally and preparing the place for him for this coming year.

We love you and are so thankful for you. We covet your prayers,

Much love,

Sharon, Casey, Ryan, Niko and Chase