

Update: A Bittersweet Father's Day...

After just three weeks of marriage, Ryan and Melissa will move to England on Tuesday. Hard to believe. It was a surreal Father's day this year as we celebrated in Cleveland and then put JP, Ryan and Mel on a plane back to Florida. JP is now on assignment in Haiti, and the newlyweds are packing to get ready for life, work and ministry in the UK.

It's the end of an era with our kids (who are also our best friends) no longer living in our home. Praise be to our God for the incredible privilege and memories. But bittersweet is a good word, as they are doing His will but now thousands of miles away from us as we base out of Cleveland for this next season. And as I personally have been going through mixed waves of sadness and praise, God gave me the words of John 10 as a reminder of our next wave of "spiritual kids":

"I have other sheep not of this fold...I must bring them in also." Jn. 10: 16

For Jesus, separation from his beloved disciples was more than tough. I am now reading His John 17 prayer and passion with a whole new set of lenses. But as they were "doing life together," he had also been strategically preparing them for their destiny and God-given, Great Commission assignment. Likewise, we have done our best to prepare our four kids to serve the purposes of God in their generation. Like Jesus, we will continue to pray...from a new vantage point...and take joy in watching them "turn their world up-side down." And I will try not to meddle...

For Jesus, His call and commitment to the Father's dream was the reason they had been "assigned" to him in the first place. Despite their closeness from daily life and ministry together, He knew in that moment not just that the time had come to trust and let go, but also that they would not be his last "spiritual kids." And just as mysterious as those "others" of John 10 remain to us (just who was Jesus talking about?), our next wave of kids through the Agora School is just as mysterious right now... who are they? What do they look like and where will they be coming from? And how will we "do life" and touch the world together?

So, like Jesus, Becky and I know "others" are on their way.... and we can't wait for the joy and challenge. The "bittersweet" of one era is slowly being eclipsed by both yesterday's incredible joys and tomorrow's anticipated wave of Agora students. Lead on, Lord Jesus...

Please Take Note: Yes, Becky and I are now basing out of Cleveland, Ohio for this next season. From here, we will be in closer proximity to finalize The Agora School details with both Valley Forge Christian College and the State of Ohio, continue our training indigenous church planters in Colombia and Benin, and finalize our support raising to resource our calling. **All correspondence and support will continue to be sent to our Florida address, and phone and email remain the same.**

Thank-you again for your personal partnership in the Gospel!

Forever family,
Randy and Becky