

Mission Erickson

serving with Redeemer's House International
www.missionerickson.com

Redeemer's House Antigua

As we return to Guatemala, we return to a brand new chapter in our lives. We return as the newest members of the Redeemer's House team.

A majority of the RHI team serves on the shores of Lake Atitlan which is about 2 and a half hours from our home. Our task this year is to help establish a new ministry site for RHI here in our colonial town.

The vision is to build holistic relationships with at-risk families near Antigua. We desire to join with God in breaking the chains of poverty and transforming lives through the love of Christ. Simply said: "We are going to fight for those who cannot fight for themselves."



We got to spend the entire month of September in Virginia. We love the USA. When we go home, there is so much we love about the states.

We love the food, the people, the language, the roads, the systems, the change in weather....

But now that we have lived in Guatemala for 2 full years and have adjusted to a new way of life, there are things that are hard to return to when we visit the US: the fast pace, the number of stores and restaurants, the number of things that I want!! (not need but want) the pressure to look good, the keeping up with the Jones' ...

We were not back "home" in Guatemala long before we remembered why we need our time in the States. Life here is harder. They speak Spanish, we just finished 5 weeks of exclusively speaking English and are a bit rusty. Bill paying is simple and in cash but often involves computers being down and long lines. We were only back three days before we ran out of gas. For this house, gas is how we cook. The gas man said he would be by on Friday, but he never showed up. Consequently we were out of gas until Monday.

Also, while getting in the car one day, Todd noticed that our front tire was not the same as the other 3. No worries. But after calling folks who had used the car, Todd realized, it was the spare and that the real tire was gone, missing. This may have happened before we left. This mystery is yet to be solved. We suspect it may have gotten lifted at a shop where we get our car repaired.

There are also the lesser problems of no one showing NFL games this past Sunday because the Classic Soccer Championship was being played.

None of these things in and of themselves is a really big deal, but each and every day life is a little bit harder than the life we left behind in the US. Normally, during the year, we don't give it much thought, but having just returned, the contrasts are glaring at us, showing us why each day we are a little more weary.

Having said that, life is also slower and we get more time together as a family. We are put in a position to rely on Jesus in a real way and we become painfully aware of our own shortcomings.

Maybe the Lord is reminding us we really aren't going to be home this side of eternity.
(John 14:3)

-Maureen

“Leaders are Readers” -Howard Hendricks

One of our goals is to be life-long learners, not to ever assume that we have arrived. Instead continuing to grow and learn (Philippians 3:12)...continuing to work on our relationship with each other, with the people we seek to minister to and with Jesus.

Here are a few of the books that have been stacked on our nightstand lately. These and others are challenging us and playing a key role in shaping who we are and how we live.

Both “7” and “Wrecked” have challenged our views of both comfort and poverty. These help us to question our status quo.

“Imitating Jesus” by Lewie Clark and “The Invested Life” are shaping the way we think about discipleship and how we can be more intentional with those around us.

Along with Lewie Clark’s book mentioned above, “A Meal with Jesus” is giving us a glimpse into genuine community.

And “Cross Cultural Servanthood” is moving us toward a more effective ministry here in Guatemala.

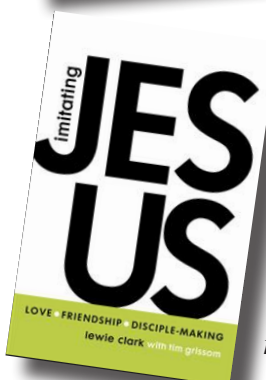
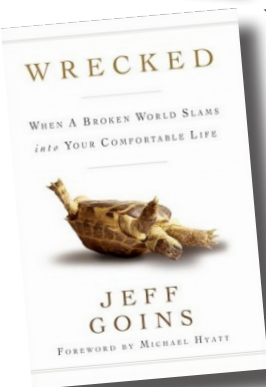
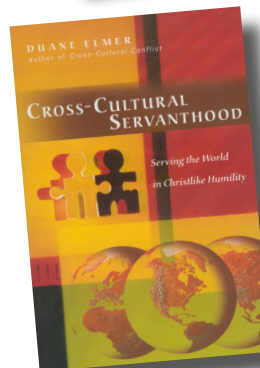
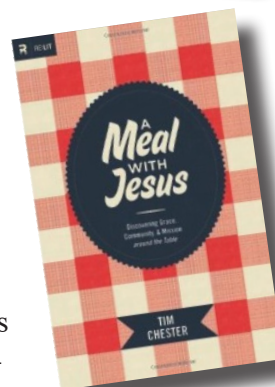
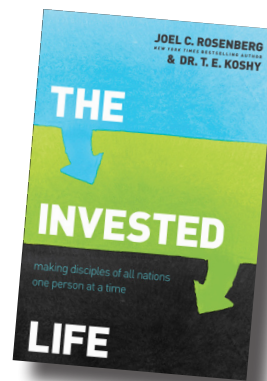
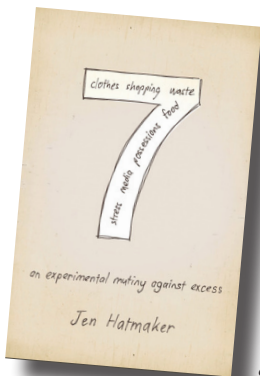
By the way, for those of you who do not already know this about us, we are not necessarily the spiritual giants this selection of books might indicate. We also have unashamedly had the Hunger Games series, our friend John Cunningham’s Buck Reilly books, as well as “Born to Run” all stacked on that very same nightstand.

Making the Switch

Thanks so much for sticking with us as we made the transition to Redeemer’s House. All of our regular supporters made the switch and we’re grateful. Your change in giving tells us that you support us and what we have been called to here in Guatemala. That is invaluable.

If you have not given before, but would like to be a part of our support team, just head over to missionerickson.com and click on the “Give” tab. There you should be able to find all that you need in order to begin giving.

Whether by mail or electronically, all of your gifts are tax deductible. RHI is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization.



Our 4 Big Prayer Requests...

Any success we have in ministry is directly related to people like you praying. Here are a few highlights to guide you as you pray for Mission Erickson:



Todd and Maureen Erickson

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Open Doors: *“And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ...” Colossians 4:3*

Financial and Spiritual Support: *“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19.*

This request will be ongoing because the answer to this prayer keeps us here and fruitful in Guatemala!

The teams heading to serve with RHI in Guatemala: *“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:3-6*

Teams can make a big impact in a village and a mission trip to Guatemala always makes a big impact on the individual members of the team.

Relationships: *“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.” Luke 10:1. “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17.*

We are meeting a lot of new people here in Guatemala and are loving it. Our hope is to be able to enjoy a few deep friendships, make a significant impact for Christ alongside other missionaries and reach out to our new friends in the villages of Guatemala.

