

THE ONKENS

Ballet and Thailand

We finished another 10 month cycle of training, and 46 of the 50 missionaries in the program we help lead decided to stay with Cru. This is a pretty normal percentage but still very, very encouraging. Each year, so many are coming from hard and difficult situations and are wrestling with what God has for their futures.

One of the families we connected with this year had been serving in a "closed" country but ran into complications because of Covid and had to leave that life behind.

We invited their girls to join a ballet class offered by a local church. Our daughters, Chloe and Lexie, were able to dance with the Gaertner's daughters, Lucy and Olivia, and even do a recital together.

We'd love to ask for prayer for 2 things:

1. The Gaertners aren't able to go back to the country they had been serving in but have decided to stay with Cru and minister in Thailand. Pray they transition well as a family.

2. Second, please pray for our kids and how many good-byes they have each year. They spend 10 months with all these other missionary kids and form some strong friendships but then often have to say good-bye. That can be hard on their little hearts.

Also, for those who are looking to be intentional about making deposits in their soul this summer, after a wearying 2020-2021, this podcast by John Eldridge is a great start:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/summer-recovery-plan/id260843816?i=1000521976007>



The Gaertners had been serving in a "closed" Asian country but had to leave. Their girls did ballet with our girls this year. They will be staying with Cru and moving to Thailand this summer.



The latest group of 50 missionaries, plus kids, at our year end retreat. 46 of the 50 will be staying on staff with Cru and as of June 3rd, they all began transitioning to their next assignments.

Onken Family Prayer Calendar

May 2021



Chloe and Lexie at their first ballet recital!

Since this is a double update (June and July), we didn't match days of the month with days of the week. Thanks for praying for us!



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pray for the 46 Cru staff all transitioning...	...to new roles within Cru. Pray they'd carry over all they...	...learned this last year to be healthy & rest in God's love	see God's provision & joy in what's next	Our family vacation would be bonding	Pray for the next group of 36 missionaries...	...going through our program...
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
...Pray they'd have a brokenness and humility and...	...experience a peace that surpasses understanding.	David is spending a lot of time reimagining our weekly meeting...	...to be more hands on and interactive. Pray for...	...creative ideas that help people connect God's truths to our hearts and minds.	Heidi meets with her moms' homeschool group. Pray for encouragement & exhortation	Genuine love & opportunities to talk about Christ with our neighbors
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Heidi is having out-patient surgery. Pray she recovers quickly	Pray for the three men that Dave will disciple starting in the Fall...	...pray they'd bring their neediness, brokenness and joy to the Lord.	Kids would sleep well. Ben has been waking up before 6. Pray he sleeps until 6	Pray for the team we work with. This year was hard with all the adjustments...	...we had to make to our program because of Covid. Pray we'd...	...serve with joy and are able to rest even if the status quo won't work in planning.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Our pastors would be blessed in their marriages: intimacy & faithfulness	Our family would have gentle, humble and patient hearts	The new group of "stinters" starts arriving this week in July. Pray for...	... safe travels, patience as people pack and move and that it would...	...feel like the Lord has prepared a place them this year.	Our kids would be safe and healthy this summer. Theo would refresh his swim, float, swim	We'd disciple our kids the way the Lord wants us to
29	30	31				
Our family would maintain our love for France	Pray for the small group we will lead with 3 families. Pray...	...people connect well and feel safe together.				