

THE REED FAMILY



COMPARE LAST YEAR WITH THIS YEAR, THE BOYS ARE GETTING BIGGER AND WE ARE LOOKING YOUNGER, FUNNY HOW THAT WORKS!!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

We cannot believe that 2010 is upon us already! As we prepare to step into the next decade we wonder where we will be in 2020 because in 2000 we had absolutely no idea that we would be living in Hanoi, Vietnam with 3 little boys!!!

This year has been nice, in that Hanoi is feeling more "normal" for us. We know where things are, we can communicate, and getting around is not such a big deal. A couple of weeks ago, while on a train in Beijing, Dennis realized after a long time that he was the only "white"

guy. This prompted him to think about how he sees himself and how we are getting so used to the environment and culture. We wonder what the experiences of immigrants in the US are like...you should ask them!



RELAXING IN A WARM TUB



THE BOYS AT THE CENTER



AT THE CARNIVAL IN HANOI

Quick Review...

What are we doing?

We often ask ourselves the same question! Seriously, we are investigating different scenarios for our future here. Currently Dennis is working with a NGO doing development work with orphans, but we have decided to not pursue this beyond June 4th of this year. We feel it is a very costly direction with limited access to make relationships and an overwhelming amount of administration! However, the experience has been valuable and good contacts were made.

Now, we are going to try to establish a business...Why business? The reason is, as oddly as it might sound, business is more welcome in Vietnam than NGOs. Vietnam is especially open to businesses that are offering services to help the Vietnamese people. So we are hoping to use a model that Dennis saw in Beijing. While in Beijing, Dennis visited a consulting company that runs a training center, teaching foreigners Mandarin (we would do Vietnamese) while the local clients would come to learn English and Western business practices. This provides a great way to build relationships while helping people to improve their skills. God willing, we are hoping to set up this company sometime in 2010.

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own
understanding. In all your ways
acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6**

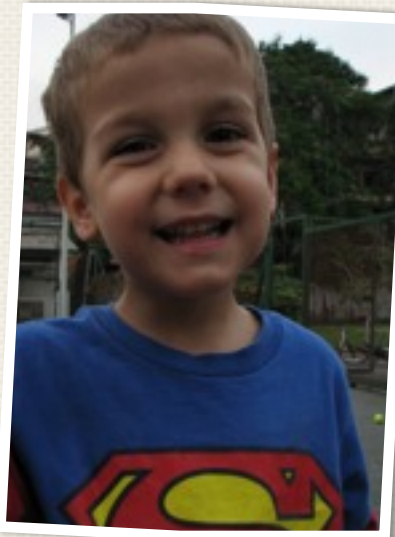
When are we coming to the US?

I wish we had a definite answer, but we hope to know by April 2010. At that time we should have dates to share with you. We are looking forward to things like meeting with friends and family, walking on the sidewalk without looking for motorcycles coming at us, and crossing the street while watching people come to a full and complete stop!



STEPHEN

This year Stephen started Kindergarten and is really enjoying it. He is very excited about reading and loves pretending to be a knight after we learned about medieval times. He is also adjusting well to Vietnam. We have gone to visit one of the orphanages Dennis works with a few times and both of our kids love it! They now have Vietnamese names and Stephen has been trying to learn new words so he can play with his friends at the center.



ANDREW

Andrew recently learned to ride his bike without training wheels and is excited because sometimes he falls like "the kids in the videos." He watched some BMX racing and stunt videos and now is an aspiring BMX racer (at 3 1/2!) Dennis even caught him trying to carry his bike up the slide so he could then ride it down. Keep in mind this is the same slide he was trying to climb up when he split his chin open earlier in the year! He is also a very sweet and funny little guy who often makes us laugh.



JEREMIAH

Jeremiah started big at 9 lbs and is already 13 lbs at 8 weeks old. I guess he has to grow fast to keep up with his brothers! He is a super easy baby and has let mom and dad sleep through the night from day one with the exception of 2 nights! He is just beginning to smile and coo at us, which is so fun. The 2 bigger boys are loving having a new little brother. Andrew often says "Now that I am a brother, I can... (you fill in the blank with some wild and dangerous thing!) We are so thankful for Jeremiah, he is such a blessing!

PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR



PRAY FOR US...

1. FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO START A BUSINESS
2. AS WE THINK ABOUT OUR DEPARTURE BACK TO THE US
3. WE HAVE A LOT OF TRAVELING TO DO IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2010
4. THANK GOD FOR HIS PROVISION FOR OUR FAMILY!

Thank you for your love and support!!!

As we close this letter we want to take an opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for your love and support over this last year. Some of you have faithfully prayed, others faithfully given, some have emailed, a few have managed things for us in the US, and some have sent us care packages. We can say that we feel loved and supported by you all. Thank you so much!

As we look to come back sometime in 2010, we would like to have an opportunity to meet with you and just catch up. The one thing we miss most about the US is all the people we had to leave in order to come here. We look forward to having a cup of coffee and hearing about all that is going on in your life and your town. Please send us your Christmas newsletters to newsletter@reedsmiles.com.

Have a Merry Christmas!!!