

May 31, 2010

Friends and Family! Family and Friends!

I'm thrilled to be able to share that God is shaking things up and authoring some crazy new adventures in my life! I would much prefer to share these things in person, but hope you'll consider this letter to be simply a "teaser" until we can visit.

A bit of backstory... In 2008 I traveled with a small team from National Community Church here in Washington, D.C. to Bangkok – a city known as the global capital of human trafficking and sexual exploitation – to work alongside a handful of missionaries that have devoted their lives to tirelessly loving some of the most broken people in some pretty dark places. While ministering to women in the spiritual vacuum of Bangkok's "entertainment" districts, I found myself overwhelmed with a vivid illustration of true injustice and a redefined call to bring a glimpse of love and light to those not exposed to much of it. And I heard an unmistakable call to return... "someday."

Fast forward a bit, and God has ordered my steps over the last year to confirm this crazy but unmistakable call and prepare me to actually answer it. So... on **August 16, 2010** I will be taking the leap of faith across the globe.

Specifically, I will be moving overseas to work with The Well, a Christian ministry in Bangkok under Servantworks (www.servantworks.com/well) that reaches out to and builds connections with sexually exploited Thai bar girls. They provide education, job training, counseling and other services to women and girls that are hungry for alternatives to the sex industry, and who are hungry to hear that they are worth more than they have been made to believe.

What in the world, you might ask (as I did...) can this farm-girl-turned-Senate-staffer-turned-agriculture-lobbyist possibly have to offer in Thailand? As it turns out, The Well is looking to expand their ministry from the heart of Bangkok into the rural, agriculturally-driven areas where poverty often leads to the decision to send daughters into the city to supplement inadequate farm income. A large part of my role there will be to develop connections with the Thai government, NGOs, universities and others that might be able and willing to partner in addressing the root issue of poverty in these rural areas.

I'm overwhelmed and humbled to have the opportunity to see and take part in the work that God is doing in Thailand. But I'm also acutely aware that I can't do this alone. Part of the long-term missions experience is not only being wholly dependent on God, but becoming dependent on the support of family, friends and colleagues that would like to partner in this great adventure. To that end, I'm looking to raise \$1500 per month for living, visas, ministry-related travel and other ministry expenses while in Thailand. In addition to these basic needs, there will be more opportunities to invest in some longer-term projects once more specific needs are defined in the rural areas.

If you are interested in partnering with me in this ministry, I would love for you to consider joining in prayer and/or financial support. The easiest way to join in financially is to visit www.servantworks.com/donate, click "donate now" and follow the instructions to either "give now" or set up a giving account. From there you can find my name under the missionaries tab to set up an online transaction, including one-time or recurring gifts. Though financial support is important to the ministry efforts in Thailand, your prayers are even more valued and vital to our work there!

I look forward to sharing the ways that God moves while I'm serving overseas and sincerely hope that I'll have the chance to connect with you soon. In the meantime, feel free to email, skype or check out the blog for more info, or just to say hi! Thank you for being a part of my life and a part of this crazy journey across the globe!



Blessings!
CORI

Email cori.wittman@gmail.com
Blog <http://coriwittman.com>
Skype cori.wittman
The Well www.servantworks.com/well

*"Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God."
– Bob Pierce, Founder of World Vision and Samaritan's Purse*