

Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2009 10:25 AM
Subject: Thank You

Dear Friends,

It has been an awesome experience partnering with you these past several years. Living and serving God in Ethiopia has been a privilege and an honor. My family has experienced and grown in the Lord so much because of your faithful support, encouragement, finances and prayers...the blessings God gave us through you are too numerous to list. But please know you touched our lives. My pastor gave a sermon a few weeks ago about heaven. How when we arrive in heaven, we will be greeted by not just those we helped directly but by those we helped indirectly come to know Jesus Christ. The Langanos Farms project is not over. It will continue with or without my family living there. But I believe many more will make decisions to follow Christ because of what we started. Your giving, your prayers, your sponsorship of fruit trees that will feed the hungry will continue to be a ministry tool that the Lord will use for His Kingdom. And you will be greeted one day by those you helped...

With that, Amy and I feel the Lord has led us to "pull the plug" on serving in Ethiopia full-time. It is time for us to start a new chapter in our lives working from the same Good Book, of course. We are going through a mourning process and sharing some tears with each other as we say good-bye. Mackenzie broke down crying last night and misses "Genet". Zachary the same. Jacob briefly lost it for many reasons to include missing his dogs...I explained we will work to have them shipped home. Nathan and Amy are also hurting but I do have a peace about this decision and have wrestled with it for months now. For me, I dearly love my Ethiopian family there and will continue my relationships with them as well as serving Langanos Farms in some capacity from the USA.

Amy and I met with SIM Personnel yesterday and they are working on a proposal to make us "SIM Associates." This will enable us to continue serving the Langanos Farms projects as well as other projects in the area / Ethiopia. I am working to raise funds to help build another school needed in the Langanos community not far from the farm project. As an associate, I will be able to raise funds for these and other ministry projects and will be given sufficient "command-and-control" to ensure your funds are going where you want them to go...whether towards sponsoring fruit trees or providing books for a new school.

If you would like to continue supporting the Langanos Farms Project (Account # 092544) or the Rodgers Ministry Account (Account # 078214), you may continue to do so. Effective December 31, 2009, your financial donations will not go towards a salary/support for our family. Any future donations to the Rodgers Support Account (Account # 078214) will be "swept" into the Rodgers Ministry Account. Please contact SIM directly at 800 521-6449 to make any changes to your giving.

What's next for the Rodgers? We will continue to support SIM / Langanos projects financially and with prayer and future short-term trips. Mike will hit the job market here in Charlotte and is excited about finding something new. He met with the "stallions" running his company on Monday and they told him to stay away ☺. I can't thank them enough for their hard work and support of my family! Amy continues to be the glue holding our family of seven together. And the kids will just be kids for the upcoming few years. We thank God for blessing our family and blessing us with friends here and across the globe.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or need additional information.

May you all have a joyous Christmas celebrating the birth of our Savior.

Love,
Mike and Amy

P.S. As a formality, SIM had to approve this email which they did. I was asked to include the following:

SIM USA's Personnel Director, Eric Ernst, says: "The Langanos Farms Project has been one of the most fruitful projects that SIM Ethiopia has engaged in during these past years and this is due in great part to Mike's leadership. We will greatly miss him as a resident member of the SIM Ethiopia team, but are delighted that he can continue to shape and support this project as an SIM Associate, based here in the States. Thank you so much for your part in supporting this outstanding missionary family."