

TO CHINA WITH TRUTH

the de los Reyes family 1:22



Dear Friends,

The past few years have been marked with excitement and fulfillment in having had the opportunity to serve the Lord in the area of overseas missions. Having felt the Lord lead me to that as an 18 year old and Beth having had the same leading at 13, we have been so blessed to have shared in the experiences that God has led us to. Our life in China is one that we absolutely love and defines much of our family. Our children speak of China as **[our home]** - even having been born in Georgia and after the past couple years of living in the States. They speak of their friends there as their best friends though they haven't spoken to them in a long time. One of the most heart warming things we do as a family is look at pictures and videos of our time in China together.

Once it became clear that returning to China was not going to be an option for the near

future, we began praying about what God might be leading us to for our next step. After much prayer and discussion, it is with much heaviness in our hearts that we inform you all that we will **[not be returning]** to the field. It took a while for my prayers to include the option of no longer serving as missionaries rather than simply a change of fields. But in the end, I realized that this was a necessary step for us to take. Both Beth and I, as well as the kids, would prefer to be serving overseas. But, we are making the hard

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IN THIS NEXT SEASON**

choice to do what we believe the Lord is leading us to do.

As I'm sure you all are aware, we had a change in our ministry last year transitioning away from our previous organization to being sent out of our home church directly. As some of you all may remember, we left because of the unhealthy, unBiblical, unChristlike ways the organization operated. It has become clear to us that simply leaving that organization was not a sufficient fix. We realized that we had adopted many of the unhealthy ways of thinking about and dealing with our life, family, and ministry that were taught and encouraged there. The future stability of our family



and depends on the unlearning of these mindsets and behaviors as well as the relearning of **[Christlike ways]** in their place.

I am praying that God provides me with a suitable ministerial job State-side with a healthy group of believers that I can **[continue serving Him]** with while we go through this process. While the financial support we have received thus far has been for the purpose of our family's ministry geared towards China, we would greatly appreciate any support that would be graciously given to help us through this transitional time as I search for a suitable position.

We want to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for the support you all have sacrificed to provide for our family and ministry. Some of you all have just started supporting us this past year and some of you have supported our ministry from before we were even married. Thank you for believing in the work of the Lord through us, for loving and praying for us. Our God is so good and **[we are excited]** to continue knowing, loving, and serving Him in this next season of our lives.

-Edward, Bethlehem, Eden, Noah, Zion, and Cana de los Reyes

Pictured:
The kids