

## Savoring our Last Moments

Earlier today, I was going to start this newsletter much differently. I was feeling the pressure of finalizing details and packing for our departure. I was going to talk about the running that we have been doing to tie up all of the loose ends before our plane leaves this Wednesday to take us to the field. However, as I broke away from the bustle for a run in the cool of a late summer evening, just as the sun was setting and the sky was turning



One last taste of Steak 'n Shake with the boys.

infinite shades of pink, and red, and purple, the rushed feeling began to melt away, and a much different feeling began to take hold. It was as if a voice inside my head was telling me, "Don't rush this. Savor this moment."

Our lives as missionaries rarely afford us this chance. We find ourselves so often driving from service to service, rushing to fulfill commitments and raise funds that we often race through the moments along the way. Many times they're gone before

we've had a chance to appreciate them.

This iteration cycle has been full of such moments: a prayer warrior speaks prophetic words, a pastor of a small church chooses to support us by faith, a congregation comes forward and lays hands upon us to send us out as their missionaries. More than the funds raised, these times have been invaluable, even if they seemed to brush by in the blur that comes with furlough ministry. In reality, as we celebrate our return to the field, such moments, and the individuals and congregations that have made them happen, have brought us to this milestone. Without your responsiveness, our flight on Wednesday would have been postponed.

So thank you for being a part, and know that, while our departure deadline looms, we're savoring this moment—the moment that you have helped us to achieve.

thorizes us to carry out our role as missionaries. Pray for us as the process has changed dramatically and delays have become common.

## The Next Steps...

As we depart for the field on September 15th, our path will take us through Costa Rica for a six-week language refresher course before arriving in Mexico in early November. This refresher course will enable us to reacquaint ourselves with the rhythm of life in Latin America, while enabling us to take our Spanish to the next level, preparing us for the responsibilities that await us in Mexico.

While we're in Costa Rica, we'll also be going through our visa renewal process. Our FM-3 Visa allows us to remain in country for a year and au-



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