

Reentry in 4 Short “R’s”

by Doug Erdmann

When you've been gone from your home country for over 7 years, there is some "reentry" that needs to happen. This is what our reentry has looked like, summarized in 4 "R's."

residence

We've exchanged apartment-living for house-living. The boxes are all put away. The ceilings have been repainted (from tan to white). Many friends have visited, both new and old. When can we expect you? A guest bedroom awaits!



A happy couple in front of their new home. The Welcome Mat means what it says!

rest



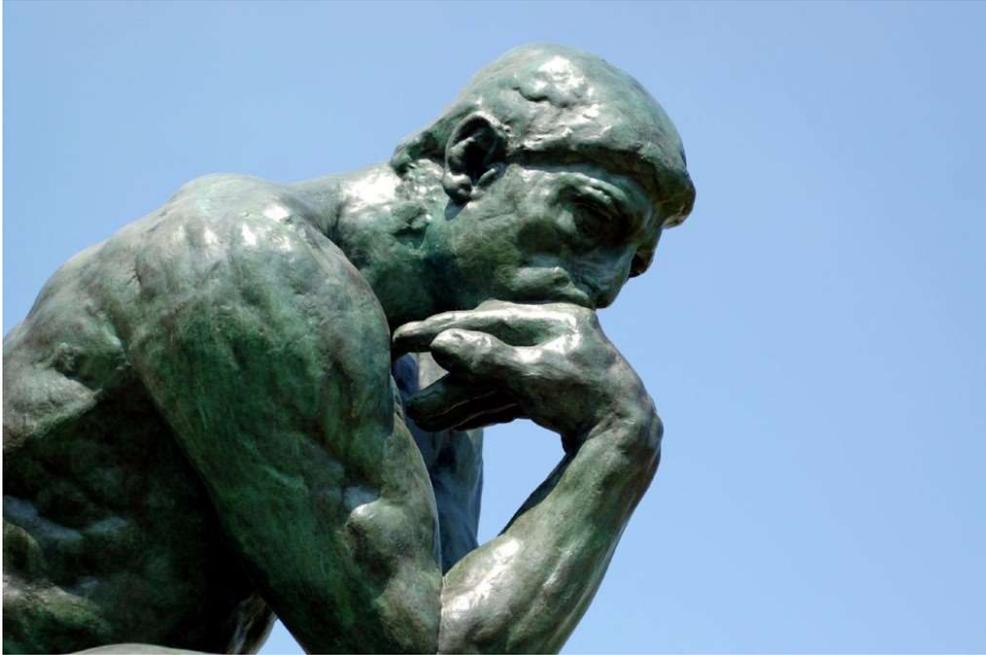
The whole family enjoying a beach vacation in Southport, North Carolina. (Only Justin is missing as he wanted to stay in Colorado)



One father, one son (left), and three sons-in-law on the 18th green of the Pebble Beach golf course in California. (Actually, the putting green of Oak Island mini-golf in Southport.) The five pairs of "Chubbies" shorts (apparently the new "in" attire) were provided by fashion consultant (and son), Tucker.

After an overseas assignment, an around-the-world move, and a cross-country truck drive, The Navigators asked us to rest a little. Among other things, this has included a family vacation in North Carolina (seen above) and a few days in the mountains of Colorado.

reflection



Doug doing some thinking (following numerous arm curls).

The Navigators also asked us to reflect on our time in Singapore, distilling what lessons we learned about the Lord, ourselves and ministry. Very helpful to this reflection was a set of nine questions provided by one of our international leaders, applicable to a transition out of any job. If you're interested, I'll send you the questions.

One thing I'm learning is that I've been somewhat out of balance in my thoughts about God. My focus has often been on His justice and high expectations, but not on His love and acceptance. I'm trying to strike a better balance. "But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness." (Ps. 86:15)

reengagement



Thirty-three of our key leaders from across the country gathered last week in Colorado. This group meets twice/year to discuss issues common to the ministries they oversee. The meeting gave me a great opportunity to get to know many of these leaders.

As my job involves helping lead our whole U.S. work, I have begun to build relationships with the people who provide overall leadership for each of our ministry areas. And those areas are varied! They include college students, military personnel, business people, the poor, various ethnic groups, young professionals and several other distinct groups. Not surprisingly, the staff and volunteers in these ministries are doing what Navigators always do... sharing God's love with non-Christians, discipling young Christians, and teaching older Christians how to reach and disciple others.

Prayer requests:

- Just like when we moved to Singapore, I have a clear-cut job description, but Joyce does not. She is reaching out to and befriending many women, as she always does, but she is also wondering if there is a specific ministry that she should be doing. Would you pray for wisdom for her?
- Justin, who is living with us, has yet to find a job. He would like to live in his own place, but that requires income. We would appreciate your continued prayers that God would provide a good job for him.

With you, for Him,