

FAMILY
UPDATE:
SABBATICAL
EDITION

NOV/DEC 2011

the velebers

Todd, Brooke, Brock, Jake & Cole



WHY SABBATICAL?

I feel incredibly privileged to not only do what I love to do, but what I am called by God to do week in and week out.

Since the age of 15, I have been serving the Lord in various capacities in the context of local churches - primarily ministering to middle and high school students. The last seven of those years have been here at Wildwood Church in Tallahassee, Florida.

Our church is gracious to provide a sabbatical for it's pastors after seven years of service. In some ways, I can't believe it has been seven years already, but ask me after a middle school lock-in and I may tell you differently!

Brooke and the boys join my excitement for having the opportunity to have some strategic down time. Ministry does often require my family to make big sacrifices when

it comes to my time and schedule and without their sacrifice and support, I most assuredly could not do what God has called me to do.

For the family, friends and our faith family here at Wildwood Church reading this, we are grateful for you. We echo Paul's prayer in 1 Thessalonians, "always thanking God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers... for your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Thank you for your love and support. We've included some requests and we would covet your prayer support during this time.

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sabbatical prayer guide:

- spiritual rest & renewal
- renewed focus & vision
- recharged passion for the Gospel
- quality & quantity family time
- Germany mission trip (November)
- Nicaragua mission trip (December)
- support raising for both missions
- opportunities to share the Gospel
- clear sense of God's calling
- growth in the spiritual disciplines
- strategic time to "sabbath"
- student ministry staff & leadership and the middle & high school ministries

mission endeavors

GERMANY

I have the opportunity to return to Germany in mid-November with a group from college that I have travelled with to do prior mission work in Germany. We will travel through multiple cities, partnering with local pastors and missionaries in outreach style concerts with the opportunity to present the Gospel in song and testimony. I will have the privilege of being able to share/preach in most of these venues. So please not only pray for me, but also for our team that we will be able to show the Germans the love of Christ in all that we do. Their culture has drifted very far from it's Reformation roots and Christianity is nearly non-existent. Most pastors and missionaries labors years just to see one convert. I'm looking forward to supporting their efforts.

NICARAGUA

For the first time, our whole family will travel to Nicaragua on mission. Brooke and I have been on a medical team together, and then I regularly lead student teams, but the boys have never been able to go. We will be working with Open Hearts Ministry (Mike & Sue Buzbee) to minister the Gospel in the second poorest country in this hemisphere. We are excited to have the opportunity to do missions as a family!

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If God inclines your heart to support our mission endeavors financially, we would be most appreciative. All support is tax deductible. Simply put "Veleber Sabbatical" on the memo line of your check and send to: Wildwood Church // 100 Ox Bottom Road // Tallahassee, FL 32312