

After two days of delays and traveling, I finally land in Thailand at midnight and walk out into a warm night's air. I am struck with the reality that I'd just come 6,000 miles to help care for and coach one of our year-long missionary teams in East Asia, what we call STINT. After settling in I soon fall asleep, a miracle in its own right.

The next morning I reunite with the team and hug CJ and Ryan, two Cal Poly grads on the team. I notice they are tired from a long fall semester filled with difficult language learning, security concerns, and bitter cold weather. My biggest goal for the week is to bring some sense of normalcy and rejuvenation. The reason I say this is because a significant struggle during a STINT year is the mental and spiritual strain of staying engaged with everything that is happening. Our teams in East Asia deal with everything from concerns of being "outed" to the Communist government, being immersed in a completely new language and culture, and even feelings of doubt or inadequacy. Often times something as simple as a familiar face from home can greatly lift spirits. **Would you pray with me that CJ, Abby, Ryan, Erin, Jake, Jenny, Sean, and Karisa would gain their strength from the Lord** to keep pressing forward in the fight to bring good news to thousands of unreached, mostly atheist students?

Also, pray that the **team would continue to grow in unity and love for one another**. One of the biggest reasons missionaries leave the field is because of tense relationships with co-workers. Let's pray that the mind of Christ would control them and give them humility towards each other.

Keep reading on the back for some great personal news!



Left: STINT guys that I coached during the week (LtoR: CJ, Ryan, me, Jake)
Right: elephant riding with Ryan



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MATT WILLIAMS SERVING
WITH CRU & AIA

I daily spend myself for God's kingdom by winning students to Christ, building them in their faith, and sending them as kingdom laborers.

"PRAYER IS THE GREATER WORK."

- pray for safety of the STINT team
- wisdom for CJ and Abby as they lead the team
- finish up the winter quarter strong
- leadership for AIA next year as I'm planning to move

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Giving every student the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

JENNY AND I ARE ENGAGED!



Top: I organized a surprise party that night and her three best friends were able to make it. They all drove 4-5 hours to be there!

Left: I gave Jenny my grandmother's ring, which fit her exactly how it came from my Nan!

Only four days after returning from Thailand, I boarded another plane, this time bound for Chicago. Valentine's day came and went without any major activity, but I knew she would appreciate what I had planned. Saturday seemed like a normal day as we were running errands, and even got into an argument. After visiting a jewelry store to look at engagement rings (which was really a ploy to keep her off my trail!) we ended up at a coffee shop talking about our future together. We left the coffee shop and went to a lake that is special to Jenny. We were walking around the lake, continuing our conversation about the future, when I stopped her. I told her that I was ready to marry her. I read the passage from Ephesians 5 about husbands and wives embodying Christ and the church. I slowly got down on one knee, pulled out the ring, and asked Jenny to marry me. Once she SAID YES(!!!), we enjoyed the moment and embraced each other. We got back to the car and began driving to her parent's house.

She knew that her family would be there to celebrate, but she had no idea what was about to come. Denise, Amy, and Laura (picture LtoR) were also there awaiting our arrival. When Jenny opened the door and realized they were all there, she couldn't believe it! Her face was in utter shock and she began crying tears of joy in my chest. It was a sweet moment I will never forget.

Our wedding date and location is July 12th in the suburbs of Chicago. We would absolutely covet your prayers in this time of engagement. **Pray for our hearts and minds to begin thinking and acting as one. Pray that we keep Jesus at the center of our marriage and lives. Pray for our physical purity as we're waiting to kiss until the altar. Pray for all the logistics and transition happening this summer.** Our tentative plan is for me to move to Indianapolis and join her on the campus team there. THANK YOU for your excitement, support, and prayers. Any phone calls, emails, letters of encouragement are more than welcome!