



IGO VISION

The purpose of IGo is to provide students with a cross-cultural setting in which mission work, Biblical teaching and personal discipleship can take place simultaneously.

We believe that it is more beneficial to be training missionaries overseas rather than in the affluent Western setting. IGo provides students with opportunities to travel and minister in Asia, with regular returns to the classroom for teaching and mentoring by instructors. The focus is not solely theoretical; instead it addresses the everyday issues a student experiences in ministry.

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ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE

In the backyard of our house in the little Thai village we live in we had a very nice young papaya tree. Encouraged by the tropical climate, it was growing fast and had begun producing delicious papayas. One day after a heavy rain I was sad to see that this tree had blown over. I was fascinated because I did not think the winds had been strong enough to blow it over.

I looked at the root system, and saw that there was a wide mass of healthy roots. The soil was rich and fertile. But the problem was that the roots did not go down far at all. They were extremely shallow, only inches deep. Then I understood why the tree could not stand in adversity. While it appeared to be strong and healthy, the roots were so shallow that I could have easily pulled it over anytime.

I have recently been pondering what it means to be rooted and grounded in

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IGo Student on a Ministry Trip to Cambodia



Ministry Trip in Thailand

faith and in the love of Christ. How deep are my roots, and are they strong enough to withstand adversity? The prayer of Paul in Ephesians 3 is that the Christian will be deeply rooted and grounded in the love of Christ so that he can know the love of God and be filled with all His fullness.

Ravi Zacharias says, “God did not come to make bad men good, He came to make dead men live.” Jesus says, “Unless a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.” The first thing seeds produce are the roots. Roots are the first part of the plant to grow. And for the believer, the roots’ growth begins, and are embedded in the love of Christ where there is un-surpassing power and safety. The result of this life will be fruit that is life-giving and strength that will enable the believer to endure every wind of adversity and counterfeit.

I have another papaya tree at the opposite edge of our property. It has grown tall and for several years



IGo Classroom

now has produced papayas. But these papayas have never yet matured into good fruit. They die and fall off long before they are ripe. The leaves are pale and continually falling. The ground where this tree is planted is not good soil. It is hard and rocky, and in dire need of nutritional help.

Sadly, the enemy has transplanted far too many lives in the hard soils of the world. He counterfeits wisdom with knowledge, and fruits of righteousness with dead works. He wants to rob us of abundant life and replace it with a form of godliness that has no fruit and no power.

Living as a Christian in today’s climate can sometimes be a challenging experience. There are high winds, conflicting voices, and many alternative suggestions for Christian living that can be confusing. The enemy uses every opportunity he can to try and get us to become unstable, and to ultimately uproot us from our faith and commitment to following Christ. He also uses



Ministry Trip to China

people: “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” 2 Timothy 3:5. If our security and identity is not in the love of Christ, we will be continually looking for ways to find fulfillment and yet will be left empty, void, and fruitless.

One of the great joys of my life here in Asia is working with men and women who are dedicated to being deeply rooted and grounded in Christ. These individuals are IGo students, Asian believers, fellow staff members, the body of believers at IGo Christian Fellowship, and other missionary friends in Chiang Mai. Our existence here is empowered by brothers and sisters in the States who enable our family to be here in Asia for this work. The body of Christ consists of those who are truly established in God’s love and are sustained by His grace.

May God help us together to stand firm in a world of increasing darkness and tempest. And to build each other up in the most holy faith...that we will not be tossed to for by every wind of doctrine...but that we would be what God desires and designs us to be... a tree planted by the rivers of water that is vibrant, productive, and prosperous. Men and women who are preserved and empowered by the deep, deep love of Christ.
– Gaylord Barkman



Ministry Night in Thailand

IGO BOARD

“One of the highlights of my year is to meet with the IGo Board each January. We have been served so faithfully and passionately by these men as they give counsel and direction to the work and ministry of IGo in Asia. Our meetings are filled with worship, singing, humor and the down-to-earth business that is necessary to perpetuate the cause of Christ. We thank God for these men who are willing to hold up the arms of the IGo staff as we train young people to share the life of Christ in Asia.” - Val Yoder



L-R: Merle Burkholder (ON), Collier Berkshire (IN), Lester Weiler (PA), David Yoder (DE), Dale Ropp (MN), Jason Miller (OH), Marvin Kauffman (IA), Ryan Huber (PA)

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TESTIMONY FROM AN IGO STUDENT

“As I read over my journal entries this morning, I was amazed at how much my view of God has changed in the last months. It’s one of those things that, at the time, you never knew it was inaccurate. But as my eyes were opened, I realized how much of God’s heart I was missing. As I spent time with people at IGo and heard them talk about how they view God, He began to do a work in my heart. He showed me that my view of Him is not accurate, and He began opening my eyes to His heart of love. Someone once said, how you view God is the most important thing about you. Whether that is theologically accurate or not, I don’t know. But one thing I do know, is that when you truly see God’s heart of love, it can change your life.” - AR



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