



Living the Call

Volume 1 Issue 6

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7



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Missionary - Chiang Mai, Thailand

Merry Christmas from Thailand!

As of last Saturday, December 17th, I've been in Thailand for 8 weeks! The time has gone by pretty quickly. Each week seems to go by quicker, as I notice every Thursday when it's time to do my laundry again & it feels like I just did it yesterday! (I've finally figured out the timing of doing laundry here & having it

out in the sun in time so it will be dry by the end of the day. This only took a couple weeks of having to re-hang my clothes out the next day. ☺) I wanted to get this update out to all of you in time to wish you a very Merry Christmas! I'll post an update about my first Thai Christmas on my blog next week.

Practice Makes... Perfect?

My Thai language learning is going well. I've now finished the first "class" & will be finishing my second "class" this week. I say "class" because they don't really have a clear end or beginning as the lessons carry over from one meeting time to the next. I know a "class" is finished when we have met 10 times.

I can hold a short conversation if: 1) I meet you for the first time; 2) you work in a coffee shop; 3) you are a waitress at a restaurant; 4) you work in a market; or 5) you drive a song theew (taxi)! We have had field trips covering these lessons, so I've been able to practice in real-life situations. I still need a lot more *practice*!

My class is small (6 people) & very diverse. It's been fun getting to know everyone.

I've also been riding my motorcycle more AND going places by myself! Well, just one place...a couple from my Thai class live about 15 minutes away from me, so I ride to their house and ride the rest of the way to class with them (in their car ☺).

I'm getting a little more comfortable driving in all of the traffic. It's nerve-wracking watching out for all of the cars and motorcycles in a place with no speed limit and no clear "rules of the road."

I don't have a daring or adventurous bone in my body, so driving here is sometimes scary for me. I'm managing and hopefully, soon, all of the *practice* will pay off and I'll be going new places without white knuckles getting me there!



Me, Mary, Stephen, Yasa & his wife, with the evangelists



Medical

Since my last update, I've had one more, small clinic in a village. On November 19th-20th, I went to Nong Kio with Stephen, Mary, & their son John. We went with the purpose of Stephen meeting the evangelists from Burma that work through Asians for Christ to get updates on their work there. We met with three evangelists and the wife of a fourth. It was amazing to hear how God is working through them in Burma and the number of people that now know Christ and the many who still want to know!

During their conversation, they also started talking about the mission trip next year - a team from Atlanta

Christian Church will be coming back in October. The people in Burma are the most in need of medical care. We would like to set up a clinic somewhere near the border so that these people can cross & receive the care they desperately need.

As we were discussing options for this trip, the ACC mission team was holding their first fundraiser for the trip. It was yet another great reminder of God's timing!

On our second day in Nong Kio, I had a small clinic before we left for church & saw around 15 people.



Learning Christmas vocabulary

Teaching English

The English classes on Saturdays have been going well! There are usually anywhere between 7-10 kids ranging in age from 4 years old to 11 years old. It's sometimes a challenge to keep everyone focused & on the same page, but the kids are doing a great job!

Instead of the usual 10 kids, there were 16 kids! We had heard throughout the week that more might be coming, so I was prepared.

We started the class with some Christmas vocabulary, then decorated a small tree, played Christmas Bingo, then had snack & story time. While the kids were eating their snack, I read them the Christmas story, Becky (Stephen & Mary's daughter) translated, and John (Stephen & Mary's son) held up pictures to go along with the story. I had told them as we were learning the new vocabulary words that many of these words would be in a story later. I explained before I began reading that this story is a true story, it really happened, and it is the reason I celebrate Christmas. Story time didn't start off well as the kids were excited for snack & just wanted to talk, but by the end of the story they were all paying close attention!



Playing Bingo

We've had 6 classes now. I've covered ABC's & numbers, greeting someone & introducing yourself, colors, food, and family.

This past Sunday, the 18th, we had a Christmas party! (We had moved class from Saturday to Sunday because some kids were going to be on a field trip & didn't want to miss class. 😊) This was the first time I introduced Jesus to the kids. Many of them have never heard of Him, so it was a great opportunity to share some of my culture while at the same time being able to introduce them to the Savior of the world as a baby!

After the story, I passed out gifts to all of the kids. They were so excited! The looks on their faces were priceless! In watching them play & have fun, I was completely humbled & in awe, once again, that God chose me to show them His love.



Listening to the Christmas story



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Praise God with me:

- * For bringing so many Shan children to the Christmas party
- * For safe-keeping and His perfect peace
- * For the gift of His Son, whom we celebrate this season
- * For a new year & all of the possibilities & opportunities that will come

"It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night..."

Psalm 92:1-2

Pray with me:

- * For continued guidance & wisdom in reaching God's people here
- * That God will continue to work in the hearts of His people here - it's already evident that He is
- * For comfort & strength for myself & my family in my being away - it seems to be getting harder, not easier
- * That God will continue to mold me & shape me through my experience here



"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'"

Luke 2:8-14

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' – which means, 'God with us.'"

Matthew 1:22-23

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!