

LIVING THE CALL

ALICIA JO CRABTREE – MISSIONARY – CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

This has been a quiet month, but it sure flew by fast! I think God gave us a quiet month to rest up for the coming year – it is going to be a busy one here in Thailand!

The school that Stephen runs here, Asia International Seminary (AIS), has started classes back up. There are students from Thailand that come every Monday. There will also be students coming from Burma & China for weeks-long intensive courses throughout the year. I'm sure that having so many visitors throughout the year will bring many new experiences & opportunities for practicing the language I'm learning. My Thai language classes are still going well. I've learned around 1,000 words & sentences for many different situations – going to the market, a restaurant, coffee shop, the bank, immigration, purchasing plane/bus tickets, renting an apartment/house – the list goes on & on. We've taken a few field trips to use what we've learned in real-life. Learning a new language & culture has been fun & frustrating at the same time, but I'm slowly getting there!

The slowed-down pace of this month gave me more time to spend with God – reflecting about many different things & studying His Word – which is always very much needed! I'm learning so many great lessons that are changing & shaping me into who God wants me to be & preparing me for what He has planned for me.



There seem to be a lot of holidays in Thailand this time of year. Saturday, the 14th, was Children's Day, so we didn't have English that day because of the holiday. I'm still not exactly sure what Children's Day is except that kids can go to a certain place & get toys or candy. We didn't do that; instead, the whole family went to Sankampaeng Hot Springs. I didn't really know what to expect never having been to a hot springs before, but there was a lot – a swimming pool, a bath house, rooms to stay overnight, a river flowing through the park to put your feet in, little stands to eat, & many areas to have a picnic. There were even tubs built up that the hot springs water collected in & you could buy eggs to boil in them! It was a fun experience!

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven...”
Ecclesiastes 3:1

MINISTRY

ENGLISH

The English class is growing! We started with around 8 kids & last week, had 15! Their ages range from 4 to 13, so it is hard at times keeping everyone focused, but the kids seem to be having fun & are learning. This month, I discovered that the kids really like to draw & are very good at it! So, one week, they just drew pictures and then we went through each picture pointing out different things & saying the English word. Last week, we learned names of different places (house, school, restaurant, etc.), so the kids picked one place & drew a picture of it. Another week, we learned names of different things outdoors. After learning the different words, we went outside & I would point to something & they would have to tell me what it was in English or I would say the word in English & they would have to run & find that thing. I've been trying to think of different hands-on activities for them to do each week to reinforce what we're learning. This is a learning process for me as well as the kids!

MEDICAL

One aspect of the medical part of my ministry is to coordinate things when a mission team is coming for a short-term mission trip. This year there are two teams that are planning on coming. The team from Atlanta Christian Church will be here first in September, so I've begun putting things together for this trip. It's been fun being on this side of a mission trip – being the receiving end & learning all that goes into preparing for a team to arrive & working out of the details here. In the past, when I was part of the mission team, it was amazing to see how God was working out all of the details in planning & fundraising for a trip. On this side of it, it's been amazing to see how He reveals the needs of the people here & works out the details of resources & people to meet those needs. I'm excited & looking forward to see how God brings all of this together for His glory!



Kids on an "Outdoors" scavenger hunt



Kids with their "Places" pictures

"But Jesus called the children to Him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.'"

Luke 18:16-17

PRAYER & PRAISE

Praise God with me:

- For a growing English class!
- That He saw me through my first illness here – a sinus infection & respiratory infection
- For the lessons He’s teaching me & growth through it all
- That many students will learn & grow at AIS this year

Pray with me:

- That I will continue to show God’s love to the kids that come to English class
- That language learning will continue to go well & for opportunities to use what I learn
- That I will continue to learn my new role in coordinating a mission trip on this side & that I will do well ☺
- For safe travels & a good visit in February with Cheryl (ACMI’s Office Manager)

Thank you SO much for your continued support & prayers! I can never find the words to express how grateful I am & how much I appreciate all of you!

Forwarding Agent

Please send all funds here with checks payable to:

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