

LIVING THE CALL

ALICIA JO CRABTREE – MISSIONARY – CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

All About Firsts!

As you can imagine, I have had A LOT of firsts in my almost 4 weeks in Thailand!

- I tried roe for the first, and probably last, time. (For those who don't know, roe is fish eggs, & mine were inside the fish when it was steamed & then fried.)
- I purchased my first motorcycle, followed by my first ride to the gas station & store! This was SO much fun, but I am SO nervous in all of the traffic. ☺ Hopefully, with lots of practice, my nerves will calm down quickly.



- I started my first Thai language class at Cornerstone Coaching Center. I barely made it through the first week & was feeling extremely frustrated, especially since I had to miss the third class so we could leave early for Thanksgiving in the village. This second week has been much better & I think I may be figuring this out. ☺ It is definitely going to take the whole year, though!



- I experienced my first Thanksgiving in Thailand at a village called Ban Nam Rin. (“Thanksgiving” in Thailand literally means “first harvest.”) A Thanksgiving in Thailand is centered around the church. The church family gathers together in a service, offering the first of their harvest to God and thanking Him in praise & worship for all of the blessings He has provided. The service is then followed by fellowship & a meal. Here in Thailand, it seems the focus is much more on recognizing that everything we have comes from God & thanking him for it, as compared to the States, where more often, the focus becomes food, family, football, & shopping. While these are all good things, I realized through this experience that Thanksgiving really should be more focused on God because He is the reason we can be so thankful!

“Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.”

Psalm 105:1



Teaching English to Shan children



Giving medication to a Lisu woman at Clinic

First Medical Clinic

I held my first clinic at Ban Nam Rin after the Thanksgiving service & lunch. I saw 35 people & treated them for a variety of ailments ranging from stomach infections & ulcers to allergies & respiratory infections to general aches & pains. Overall, it was a good clinic & many people received treatment that they would otherwise not be able to receive.

MINISTRY

First English Class

I taught my first English class! Before coming to Thailand, this was the area of my ministry that I was most concerned with because it is the area that I feel the least prepared for. I thought I would start with a clinic and have more time to work into teaching English. So, when this was the first task Stephen wanted me to start with, I was very anxious about how it would all go! It didn't surprise me, though, that this is where God would want me to begin because I have to completely depend on Him in this area. I got really excited about teaching when Stephen told me that the majority of the people who want to come to class are the Shan people who are refugees here from China & the majority of them have never heard of Jesus, so this will be a great opportunity to share His love!

As I was reading through different sites on the internet on TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), I was seeing a lot of different ideas, but nothing was really jumping out at me as something that I should try. All of a sudden, I began to have idea after idea of how I should go about teaching English & incorporating the Gospel. I know this was from God because the ideas I kept writing down had absolutely nothing to do with what I was seeing on the internet! I held my first class on Saturday, November 5th. There were 7 kids that attended, ages 4 to 11. I wasn't sure what the kids already knew, except that it wasn't very much, so we started with the basics – ABC's! We worked on ABC's & how you greet someone for 2.5 hours! We finished the class with a snack. The kids seemed to really enjoy it. ☺ I'll teach my second class this Saturday, the 17th.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:30-31

The final first, and most important of all, is that I'm continuing to learn what it means to put God first above all else & how to do that. It's not easy & it's not permanent – it's something I have to actively decide to do every day. There have been days I've failed at this, but there have also been days I've done it right & the result of that is immeasurable!

PRAYER & PRAISE

Praise God with me:

- For a great first Thanksgiving experience
- That He continues to keep me safe & healthy (especially in the traffic ☺)
- For the Shan kids that attended my 1st English class
- For all of the many ways that He blesses us every day

Pray with me:

- For patience & wisdom as I continue to learn this language & culture
- For continued guidance in how to reach these people for Him through teaching English & providing medical care
- That the hearts of the people here would be softened & open to receiving His love
- That I would continue to fully lean on & depend on God throughout all of this
- That not only would the hearts of the people here be turned toward Him, but that He would continue to mold me & shape me through this season

Forwarding Agent

Please send all funds here with checks payable to:

ACM International

c/o Janice Garriott
13555 Whitetail Dr.
Bloomington, IL 61705

JANICEGARRIOTT@YAHOO.COM

Contact Info

Alicia Crabtree

Email

ajcrabtree@acminternational.com
ajcrabtree07@yahoo.com

Websites

www.ajcrabtree.blogspot.com
www.acminternational.com



ACM
International

the Alliance of Christian Missions

Thank you all for your continued support & prayers!

I wouldn't be here without it! ☺

For more frequent & detailed updates, visit my blog at www.ajcrabtree.blogspot.com!