

Prayer letter December 2012

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark. 16:15)

Dilemma, or not?!

For several months already we teach English to Thai children. After a while the desire grew to bring the Gospel to these children. However, we struggled with the dilemma that the children came to learn English, not to hear the Gospel. The Lord brought an unexpected outcome. Mark was made aware of a course 'Easy Storytelling'. A course which trains people to do Bible study by telling a story from the Bible. A way that seems to be very suitable in Thailand, where stories are very popular ... Why wouldn't we go and tell the older children a Bible story in basic English?

Easy Storytelling

David wept at the gate and also Celeste and Irene looked a bit sad. Dad went away for 3 days! Mark went to Bangkok, trying to master "Easy Storytelling". Anne-Marie remained with the children in Lop Buri. Fortunately the children behaved well, though Anne-Marie had her hands full. The course was very informative. Mark particularly liked the fact that the Bible story is told quite literally. The main rule is, that nothing is omitted or added. The story is told three times, including once by a volunteer from the group. After this, the group looks for the spiritual lessons of the story and then they seek together for an application.



Our teachers and student advisors

Prayer requests:

- Give thanks that we had the opportunity to buy a lot of furniture already
- We are thankful that we are involved in children's ministry
- Give thanks for all support
- We are thankful that the language study goes well so far.
- Pray that we can finish year 1 of the study well
- Pray for enough financial support
- Pray that many Thai people will be reached during Christmas time
- Pray that we will find a suitable house in Isaan

The first Bible story that Mark told during English class, was the story of the Fall in Genesis 3. Mark got the impression that the children understood the story pretty well, though it was still difficult for them to describe the spiritual lessons from the story in English. So far, Mark has told several Bible stories in English. The students seem very interested. We hope and pray that the children will get the desire to know our God!

Easy Gospels

Our marriage life has had temporarily a surprising new element. We told each other stories before bedtime. In Thai of course... We practiced for the module 'Easy Gospels'. About 30 stories from the Bible where to be studied. Two of them we have learned by heart. We had to be able to answer questions about the other stories. Fortunately, the examen went well again. Only two modules to go and we will have completed the first year of language study here in Lop Buri.

Soon we will say goodbye to some students who arrived just before us. Because of the good friendship that we have developed, it will be a hard farewell for us. It makes us also realize that our own farewell is coming closer.

Children

The children are doing well. Celeste enjoys the homeschooling and is very eager to learn. A while ago, she was even angry with Anne-Marie because the curriculum was too easy according to her! Irene starts to have more and more toddler behavior. She cares about her brother and while talking she can carefully explain what she means. David is very naughty and gives us a lot of sleepless nights these past weeks. He often seems to be afraid at night. We hope that this phase will be over soon!



A busy month coming up

We are and always will be Dutch. In the first week of December we will spend a few days in Isaan to celebrate "Sinterklaas" with a number of Dutch families. "Sinterklaas" is a typical Dutch celebration, which is held on December 5th every year. Celeste and Irene cannot wait. We will take the opportunity to look for a house in Isaan already. Much of the furniture we have already, thanks to a departing American missionary couple who sold their 2.5 years old furniture for a great price. This was a great opportunity for us!

In December there are also a number of evangelistic outreaches in the program. Christmas is very suitable to get the Thai people acquainted with the Christmas Child. We are grateful that we are involved in several outreaches by way of our church. In only another three months, we hope to move to Isaan. Probably our next newsletter will come from our new home. We are curious but confident in God.

In Him,

Mark & Anne-Marie, Celeste, Irene and David

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