

Prayerletter June 2013

Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established. (Proverbs 16:3)

An own house

The sun sets and the sky has all kinds of beautiful colours: purple, orange, pink and blue. Almost every night we enjoy this view while having dinner or washing the dishes. This is because our kitchen is located outside. Two months we live in Isaan already. Another eventful time for us as a family. Again pack everything we own and start somewhere else anew. Fascinating and difficult at the same time. Moving houses went quickly and smoothly. The children enjoy the fact that we have a yard again and we are also happy with our new home. The location is favorable, nearby the school and temple. These are the places to be for the villagers. Moreover, our own street is vivid, with lots of children and teenagers. During the house warming party we have been able to make contact with lots of people from the village yet.

Housewarming

One random Saturday evening it takes place: the house warming party. Feeling a little awkward, we greet all kinds of people from our street. We hear their names and forget them immediately again. Meanwhile we realize we don't know enough of the Thai etiquette: 'Do the people pour in their own drinks or should we do that? Do we have to stand at the gate or can we sit with some guests at the table?' The whole antecedent afternoon, people have helped us in all preparations. Women cooked delicious meals in our yard, men picked up tables and chairs, cutlery was arranged, etc. For this occasion, we had invited a Thai Christian friend, Tom. He is the driver of the Bible van of the Isaan team. That evening, he took the van with him, so it was possible to show a movie about Christianity.



Mark doing his speech during the housewarmingparty

Prayer requests:

- Give thanks that the transition went smoothly so far for the children
- We are thankful that we found a teacher for coming schoolyear
- We are thankful for good contacts with the villagers
- Give thanks that we found a good language helper
- Pray for possibilities to keep making contact with the villagers
- Pray that we can start a children's club soon
- Pray that the language won't be a hindrance in our relations with the people

This movie was spoken in the Isaan dialect! Moreover, Tom shared his testimony and Mark prepared a speech in which he explained the reason of our move to Isaan. Many people watched the movie with interest. We hope and pray that people have been touched by what they heard that evening. Praise the Lord that since that evening we have more contacts with people in our neighbourhood.

Homeschooling

In April we started to combine the homeschooling of Celeste and Irene together with Joshua and Judah, the 2 oldest children of the van der Lee family. This takes place in a tiny classroom in the yard of the van der Lee family. Three afternoons per week they have class together. The first week there was a lot of giggling, but nowadays the children are used to the new situation and also the mothers enjoy the teaching. Three weeks one mom teaches, then the other. Finally, we are able to have a group discussion and do group activities. We are thankful being able to write that from September onwards, there will come a Dutch teacher to teach our children for one year! Anne-Marie will have more time for language study and our ministry. Every Friday we drive 90 km to bring the children to Baan Phai. Here, they have class with another 2 Dutch children and the moms teach here them in turns as well. It's wonderful that our children have so many peers!



Diligent working at school

Daily life

'Handyman' en 'Thai kitchen'. We started the second year of language study with these 2 useful modules. Every morning we both spend 2 hours to language study. We have found a good language helper, for whom we are grateful. Four mornings per week she comes to help us in learning Thai. She doesn't hesitate to tell us our mistakes, which is a good thing. We experience that people from Isaan are more direct than the average Thai anyway. 'Look how fat my son is.' 'She speaks Thai better than you do'. Just some examples.



Writing down songs for children's club

The afternoons we use for some study or preparations for our ministry. We are collecting materials for a children's club, looking up Thai children's songs, learn how to tell a story for the Bible in Thai and so on. We hope we can start soon a children's club in our village. Mark has started to teach English to teenagers in our neighbourhood already. A good way to start new relationships and to serve the community. The beginning is there!

In Him,

Mark & Anne-Marie, Celeste, Irene en David

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