

## Prayerletter March 2014

*And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him (Acts 8:36,37)*

### Mixed feelings

'We are a little sad because we are leaving Thailand!' This is what Celeste and Irene said as we were boarding the airplane to the Netherlands. On one hand they were very



Greetings from the Netherlands!

excited to spend some time in the Netherlands, on the other hand it's hard for them to leave Thailand. Mixed feelings which they will probably experience more often in the future, just like the rest of our family. At the moment, we are back in our hometown Rijssen for several weeks and we enjoy meeting

family and friends. Wonderful, a time of rest and getting new energy for a new term in Thailand. The last month in Thailand was pretty hard on us, so we were happy to be able to go on home assignment.

### Prayer requests:

- Give thanks that we have arrived safely in the Netherlands
- We are thankful that all 5 of us enjoy our home assignment
- We are thankful that 6 people from our village and a neighboring village got baptized
- Pray that more people in our neighborhood will answer God's call and give their life to Jesus
- Pray for protection and spiritual growth for new believers
- Pray that we may find enough rest and get energy for a new term in Thailand
- Pray the we will find a teacher for the new school year

### Hard

The month of January, the last month before our home assignment, was hard for us. Two burglaries in our house, several people who died and a theft by our housekeeper. We suspected her of stealing for some time already, but she was trapped after stealing Mark's wedding ring. Fortunately, we got it back after all.

Our neighbor woman died after being in a coma for 2 days. In the days after her death, we saw a lot of rituals which are meant to scarce the evil spirits or to protect themselves against the evil spirits. For example, all family members wore a white cord around their neck, a white rope was string up on the compound, monks came to pray and chant. Also, there was very loud music, all day long for several days. It was so loud that we even couldn't have a normal conversation inside our house! These days though, gave us a lot of opportunities to share the Gospel with people around us.

How different were the ceremonies at Mother Nit's burial; she was a Christian lady from Isaan who came to evangelize every Wednesday in our village. She also died suddenly. Mark took some neighbors who knew Mother Nit with him to the memorial service. There, the people heard about the hope there is in Jesus Christ. This month, we experienced that hard situations gave lots of opportunities to share the Good News!

## Baptism

"I won't bow for Buddha anymore at the ceremonies in school, mom. I will only bow for Jesus from now on." This is what Kan said, the 9 year old daughter of our language helper. This girl comes to



Korn's baptism

children's club every Saturday, to church every Sunday and also is present at the worship time on Wednesday in our house. In this little girl we clearly see a hunger for the Word of God. Her mom, Korn, also comes to church on Sundays, helps us in the preparations for Wednesday worship and helps us to prepare children's club. They both said they wanted to become Christians. The last Sunday of February it took place: they both were baptized, together with 4 other people! What an encouragement and what a witnessing to their community! By being baptized, they showed that they are no Buddhists anymore. A

huge step in the Thai culture! It was a pity that we were not there, but we are very thankful and thrilled with their choice to follow Jesus!

## The Netherlands

Since February 10th, we are in the Netherlands. We have met many people yet and gave lots of presentations. We feel very blessed and feel God's good care and providence for us, also in the Netherlands. We live now in the center of our hometown Rijssen, in a house provided by people we had never met before! We enjoy the Dutch food. Our girls go to school and enjoy it a lot. David has started a preschool program twice a week and we are surprised how much he likes going there! Wearing a lot of clothes we cycle around; we have to get used to the temperatures again, although the weather is mild. We love being able to ride the bike everywhere! And supermarkets with all kinds of products, how luxury!

The next months, there will be many more presentations; a great opportunity to share about God's work in Isaan. In the 3rd week of May we will fly back to Thailand for about another 2 years. But for this moment, we enjoy our time in the Netherlands!

In Him,

Mark & Anne-Marie, Celeste, Irene and David



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