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Prayer Letter Bak Family

September 2014

Dear friends,

How are you? We are so grateful we have a lot of friends all over the world who support us in prayer and/or finances! Thank you!

Hereby we sent our prayer letter. Sorry for the delay, as you can see, we changed our lay-out and that took some time.

Blessings,
Bak-family

Welcome home!!

In May of this year we returned to Thailand. The heat, the chaotic traffic and staring looks at our white family... It almost felt like we had never been away!

When we arrived at our house, we saw that our language helper had opened up the front door for us already. We appreciated the gesture, but didn't really like the fact that anyone could just enter... Lots of children from the neighborhood came popping out the house when we arrived! Also, we noticed that many of our belongings have been borrowed, since we weren't around anyway! Phew, we had to get used to all these cultural differences again!



Welcome home

Prayer and Thanks

Give thanks for a wonderful home assignment

Give thanks that we returned safely to Thailand

We are thankful that we found a teacher for coming school year

We are thankful for openings at the school in our village

Give thanks that Phii Korn has a heart for evangelism

Pray for the homeschooling by Anne-Marie

Pray for a good progress of the language study

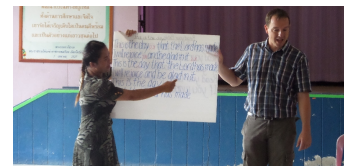
Before we went on home assignment, we had good relationships with the neighbors and felt part of the community. Strangely enough, it seemed we had to conquer our former position again. The fact that we brought a small gift from the Netherlands for our neighbors could have helped, if it wasn't for the cultural mistake we made with this gift!

Misstep

Back in the Netherlands, we had found the perfect gift, we thought. Nice and tasty, not too heavy, and typical Dutch: Wilhelmina peppermints. However, after giving some boxes to several neighbors, we noticed their hesitance and not too enthusiastic reaction. We wondered about it, but didn't have a clue why this was the case. Then suddenly we realized: It's because it shows an image of our previous Queen Wilhelmina! In Thai culture it would be very inappropriate to eat a sweet with the image of the King on it! For example, Thai people would never lick their stamps nor step on a banknote. All this because of the King's image on them. Since we found out, we still gave the peppermints, but didn't tell the story behind it... It seemed people appreciated this gift more since then!

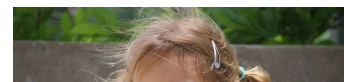
Pray for the English classes that Mark gives at school

Pray for the children who come to the children's club



Gen 31:49b:

The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another



Fireworks, Holiday Bible Week and English class

It was a Saturday night when we heard the sound of fireworks. Thai people do this when someone has just died, to scare the evil spirits. Shocked, we looked at each other: 'It wouldn't be...' Our fear seemed to be truth: an ill neighbor man of 42 years old suddenly died. We knew this man, Phii Soon, pretty well. Everyone in our neighborhood was shocked by his death, and involved in all ceremonies. We were around a lot, to show our sympathy. It may sound strange, but this event helped us being part of the community again.

This summer, both the 'Van der Lee-family' and we had guests. Three Dutch girls organized a Holiday Bible Week for children in our village and in another village. Lots of children came to this event!

Our guest, Mark's cousin Thijmun, also helped with this activity and had a good taste of our daily work. We also enjoyed the fact that these guests had a one week program for our own children! Their summer holidays had started already, but because of this activity, they had something nice to do.

'Hello, my name is...' it sounded in the classrooms of the local school. The Dutch 'teachers' were pretty busy! For 4 days long, they gave English classes. Mark, Thijmun and colleague Grea were also present. Every morning they gave English class and in the afternoon, we did a Good News club at school together with our language helper. We were able to reach over 100 children at one time! Because of these classes, we are allowed to continue teaching English in this school. A good opportunity to keep on building



Soon I will turn 7 years old! I read every book I can find! I love going to school; though I had to get used mum being our teacher. Secretly I really enjoy it though!



I'm already 5 years old! On my birthday I got a lot of princesses and Barbie toys, because I like that a lot! Also, I insist to pick my own clothes every day.



Since mum teaches every day in school, I play every day with my friend Hadassah. I enjoy that a lot! As you can tell from the photo, I'm still a mischievous boy!

relationships in our village and share the Gospel!

School and study

Early wake up calls again!! School has started mid August for Celeste and Irene. They are in second grade and kindergarten now. We have been homeschooling David a little bit at home as well. We noticed that just playing isn't challenging enough anymore.

The months August, September and October are a little different than usual. Due to circumstances, teacher Suzanne is coming later to Thailand than we planned and hoped for. That's why Anne-Marie is teaching the 4 children since August. A nice challenge, but also has its consequences... These months she can't do language study nor ministry. Also colleague Grea cannot do as much as usual because she watches David every morning. Mark takes the main part of ministry on his shoulders during this period and tries to continue language study. Language study goes well. We are both halfway the program of the language school and notice we are able to have conversations and actually understand most of what people say to us. A nice observation!

In Him,
Mark & Anne-Marie, Celeste, Irene and David

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