

Prayer Letter Bak Family

September 2015



Hooray! Anna is born!

The children had been looking forward to it the whole year and finally, the moment was there: On July 15th, 12.04 h their babysister Anna was born in a hospital in Chiang Mai!

A couple of weeks before the birth, we had a tour through the hospital, so we knew exactly where to go. Parking though, is a big problem at this hospital, but we were lucky: straight across the hospital there was some space for our car! (Later on we found out we were not allowed to park there and the car was locked with a wheel clamp... Fortunately, this was solved in no time and the short distance we had to walk to the hospital was more than worth the 10 euros fine!)

The birth itself went well and thanks to the birth plan we had set up with the hospital, non-expected things didn't happen. The Thai nurses were amazed: 3900 grams, what a huge baby! After Anna was examined, she was brought to Anne-Marie and stayed with her in the room for 2 days and nights.

That same day, the proud sisters and brother came to admire Anna, and also grandparents Bak, with Uncle Cornee, Auntie Lisa and cousin Nathan. It was nice to have some visitors during these days! And it was helpful as well, because they could babysit our children whenever Mark was busy arranging all the paperwork. We are so happy that Anna is here and enjoy her so much!



Anna a couple of minutes old

Prayer and giving thanks

Give thanks for the birth of Anna

Give thanks for the good time we spent with the volunteers, teacher and family

Give thanks for the new teacher who has come

Give thanks for passing the Level 2 Exam of Thai language

Give thanks for safe travels to Isaan

Give thanks for the children from our village who still join us to church every week

Pray the we will find a daily routine soon again

Pray for safety when we are on the road

Pray for a good year of school for the children

Goodbyes

Sad looks on our children's faces: In July we had to say goodbye to our 2 German volunteers: Claudius and Simon. Oof, this was difficult for all of us! After being a part of our family life for half a year, the house felt very empty without them! Also the children miss their 'uncles' who were always ready to fool around with them.

Furthermore, teacher Suzanne has left and been replaced by a new teacher already: teacher Kely. Although we are very happy with the new teacher, it means another change for the children.

In Chiang Mai we enjoy the company of family, but visitors have one big disadvantage: there always comes a moment of saying goodbye... As we arrived in Isaan, we just had the opportunity to meet our near colleagues David and Grea and their children, before they traveled back to the Netherlands for 3 months. Even though we're experts now, it's still hard to say goodbye over and over again!

Back in Isaan

Meanwhile, we are back in Isaan for a couple of weeks already. We had to get used to a new routine with a baby in our household.

Moreover, the children still had some weeks of summerbreak.

The pile of cards and parcels at home was a very nice surprise! And still we receive quite some mail!

We also enjoyed the interest that the neighbors took on us. On our first day home, about 10 neighbors came and visited us!

Pray that Anne-Marie will be able to start do some ministry soon again

Pray for a good continuation of year 3 of language study

Pray that many Thai people will follow Jesus



Saying goodbye to Claudius and Simon



Having a good time with teacher Kely!



Mark teaches English and shares the Gospel with teenagers

What comes with that, is the very direct remarks, and unsolicited advices: "You still look like you are pregnant!" "She looks like a boy and look how fat she is!" Several women told me how to breastfeed and beware... With only 30 degrees Celsius I should cover Anna very well - she might catch a cold! We had to get used to these kind of remarks again after spending several weeks in the safe environment of missionaries in Chiang Mai! We do enjoy being back home though. Mark has continued language study and several activities in children's ministry again. Anne-Marie mainly takes care of Anna and her siblings. The children's clubs have stopped for a while, but we hope to continue these soon again!

Another little party!

Except the birth of Anna, we had another reason to celebrate: We both passed the second year exam of Thai language! This was a hard job: showing two days long your listening, speaking and writing skills during a couple of hours! To take this exam, we traveled to Lopburi, where the language school is located. This is always a nice meeting again with the language teacher, student advisors and new students. For Anne-Marie the exam was extra tough, being 37 weeks pregnant. We are very happy and grateful we both have passed the exam! Encouraged, Mark has started year 3 already (and finished some language checks as well) and Anne-Marie hopes to be able to continue studying Thai again too.

Ps. 22:10b:

*And from the
time of my birth,
You have been
My God.*



In the picture above, you see us with our cousin Nathan. We enjoyed playing with him a lot and also that our uncle and auntie and grandparents came to visit us!



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Thanks

At last, we would like to thank everyone for sending cards, messages, parcels and your prayers! It is very encouraging for us!

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

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