

Prayer Letter Bak Family

December 2015



Children's club

It took us some time to figure out how to divide our time and work. Because of our new family member Anna, our previous schedule didn't work out well. Anne-Marie couldn't work as much as before anymore. It was good to notice though, that our agenda's were full in no time again!

"Wow, you sing along well!!!" Obviously, the children remember the songs we sing that morning. It's the second time of children's club in Baan Naa Waa; a small village at 5 km distance from our village. Finally we managed to start children's club again. We do this together with a teenager, the son of our language helper. We try to train him a little bit in children's ministry. Little by little we hand over small tasks to him and he helps us with the singing part by playing the guitar. Very nice!

Weekly, a nice group of children come to attend the club in this village and we hope that the Gospel will become a significant part of their lives!

Probably, some church members will start a children's club in their own village soon, and we will try to support them. How wonderful that more and more children will have the opportunity to hear about the Only Way to get to heaven!



Greetings from all of us!

Giving thanks and prayer

Give thanks that the children have a good time at school

Give thanks that we could continue the ministry

Give thanks that there's weekly a children's club

Give thanks that Mark has recovered completely from the dengue

Pray for safety when we are on the road

Pray that many Thai may be reached during the Christmas

Pray for perseverance in language study

Pray for balance between ministry and family

A special treatment

Every now and then we try to visit an Isaan church to see whether we can support them in children's ministry or not. In September we visited a church as well. On the way back, I told Mark that I felt like a queen there.

I can't get used to the way we get treated sometimes by the Thai people. Because of our status as teachers, we automatically have a high position in the Thai society and are treated with a lot of respect. Often this gives me an uncomfortable feeling, but not accepting this, is not appropriate. So the best thing is to go with the flow.

That particular Sunday was no exception; as soon as we entered the church, people brought us glasses of water and put fans on the floor around us. While entering, Anna starts crying and one of the ladies grabs her out of my arms to comfort her. The reverend has trouble finding the scripture and mumbles an apology towards Mark 'What must he be thinking?!'

When I go outside with a crying Anna, someone drags a chair outside and brings me a class cold water again. A woman stands beside me waving some cool air to me with a book. I offer to do it by myself, but according to her surprised face I made a cultural mistake. Oops. Actually, I'm not too happy about that since I know After church it's time for a meal. A couple of the dishes and desserts are bought especially for us. Actually I'm not too happy about that since I know the children won't eat it all. The children spill the glasses of water, but the people clean it



Mark shares about children's ministry in a church



Children's Club in Baan Naa Waa



Is. 9:6-7:

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder ... And His Name shall be called ... The Prince of Peace ... Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end ...

with a smile: "May pen ray" ("it doesn't matter" - we hear this expression all the time). After the meal we go back to the car , escorted by almost all church members. Ofcourse without doing the dishes...

A busy month

October was a busy month again. It started with the HomeSchoolWeek in Bangkok, which is twice a year. This time the theme was 'circus' and the whole week the children were preparing the circus performance. It was big fun! During this week Mark went to Lopburi for a check and the day after he was ill with dengue fever. Looking on the internet for dengue fever we were a little worried, but praise the Lord that Mark had a mild case. The week after the HomeSchoolWeek we had a week off, and during this week Mark took a lot of rest.

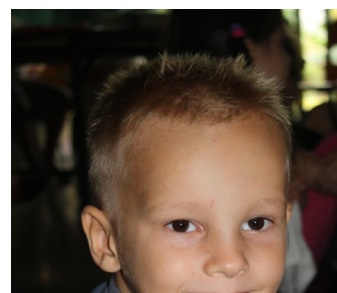
He had to, since the annual Isaan church camp was on the program right after that. Our car was loaded with 6 adults, 4 children and all luggage. Fortunately, we arrived safely and the weather during this weekend was very good. It was a special time again and very encouraging that Isaan Christians could meet each other again, study God's Word together and praise His name. It was quite an adventure, sleeping in some tents with the whole family, but we look back at some wonderful days!



"Sambaay dii boo?" This means 'Are you doing well?' in Isaan language. Every week we learn an hour Isaan language, so we will be able to say and understand more. Cool huh?!



At school I'm learning to read and write; I love it! Now I try to read everything I see.



Sowing and harvesting

At the moment of writing, it's harvest time in Isaan. It's quiet in the village, because everyone is working on the paddyfields. This is a busy, but also nice time because of the solidarity among the Isaan people.

Soon, we will start the Christmas outreaches again. We hope it will be a time of sowing and harvesting in the Kingdom of God! We will do different outreaches at schools and in other villages. We are thankful that more and more Thai people help us with these activities!

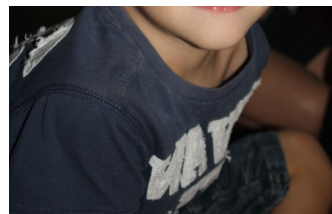
At the end of the month, the parents, brother and sister in law of Anne-Marie will come to visit us. Little by little, the weather is getting cooler, which we all enjoy a lot! It's also nice that it gives us more energy for all activities in December!

Liberty

The last months the news reported a lot of sad news: refugees, terrorist attacks, tensions in the Middle East, etc. Here in Thailand, we don't notice anything of this and we can still work in liberty. We are God thankful for this! We hope that the New Year will bring many possibilities to spread the Good News of the Prince of Peace!

From Isaan we wish you many blessings for Christmas and all the best for 2016!

In Him,
Mark & Anne-Marie,



I'm happy that our friends came back from home assignment! Now I have more classmates than just my sisters!



I'm getting a big girl, isn't it? My siblings try to make me laugh every day, so I'm an expert now!

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Celeste, Irene, David and Anna

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