

LET US PRAY

Chiang Mai - Thailand

It's always great to see friends from America. Memo and his two sons Jesse and Jacob came to visit us all the way from Southern California. What a blessing they were to us. It was their first time in South East Asia. And there's no better place to see the culture, sight and sound of Asia than in Thailand. Some would call it the gate way to Asia. Memo took personal vacation time to visit us and help us with our ministry here in Chiang Mai. It was not just a vacation but an opportunity for him and his sons to experience what it would be like to live and minister in Thailand. We showed them some of the sights and beautiful places this amazing land has to offer then it was right to work. First we went to the night of worship with our New Song friends in Bangkok. The guest speaker was Francis Chan. It was great to see him speak in person. God is using him in a mighty way. Please join us in praying for him and his family.



Then we drove the 9 hour up to Chiang Mai. Memo's two sons both skate so we asked them if they would bring their skateboard to Thailand. They both jumped at the chance. Not many skaters can say they skated in Thailand. At the local market where we shop there is a group of kids who gather there to skate



every night. So, we thought it would be the perfect way to introduce them to do an "outreach". We also visited a local hill tribe and saw how the past work of those frontier missionaries had such a big impact in their community. The hill tribe groups in Thailand are one of the most evangelized people group in the world. However, I believe the highlight of the trip came when we were able to help build a sand box at Agape Home. It is a children's home that care for over 80 children with AIDS. We pray that all of the experiences the Gomez family had in Thailand will stay with them for the rest of their lives. And that they will continue to share the love of Jesus Christ wherever they are.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING! We found a place that served a real "Thanksgiving" dinner. What a treat it was for us to have a real Thanksgiving meal. It was not like home but it was close enough. We asked our girls what they were grateful for this Thanksgiving and here are their responses:



FAITH: I'm thankful for being in Thailand and a supportive family.

HOPE: I'm thankful for my family and our new home.

GRACE: I'm thankful for my aunt Ann for sending me my school stuff and God's protection for our family. And my friends Andee and Karen.

EVE: I'm thankful for chu chu Charlie, Mrs. Terry, John, Jenny, Lani and for our home.

Around the same time as Thanksgiving the Thais celebrate their own holiday. Loi Krathong, the word "Loi" means "to float" and a "krathong" is a small raft traditionally made from a section of banana tree trunk. During the night of the full moon, Thais will float their krathong on a river, canal or a pond lake. The festival is believed to originate in an ancient practice of paying respect to the spirit of the waters. Some Thai will put money, a piece of their hair, finger nail or other personal objects into the krathong as an offering to the spirits. The act of floating away the candle raft is symbolic of letting go of all one's grudges, anger and defilements, so that one can start life afresh on a better foot. Many Thai believe that floating a raft will bring good luck, and they do it to honor and thank the goddess of Water, Phra Mae Khongkha.



During the same time as Loi Krathong the Lanna (northern Thai) festival known as "Yi Peng" also is in full swing. "Yi" meaning "2nd" and "Peng" meaning "month" in the Lanna language. A multitude of Lanna style or sky lanterns or floating lanterns are launched into the air where they resemble large flocks of giant fluorescent jellyfish gracefully floating by through the sky. The festival is meant as a time for merit making.



Even through these festivals are part of the Thai culture and they are very beautiful to witness the truth still must be shared. Thank you for your continued support and prayer for our family as we serve here in this beautiful country.

Love, The Mallowongs
Pat, Flora, Faith, Hope, Grace, and Eve

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