



COMMUNICATING THE BASICS

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.” 1 Corinthians 13:1

In February, we travelled to Kathy’s Home for our third trip to see the Hmong kids. We still cannot communicate very well, but we love visiting them. The highlight this time was teaching them some new games. We tried playing dodge-ball, but they didn’t understand the concept of “getting out” once they’re hit with the ball. So, we switched games to kickball. Mike thought they would understand the rules if they knew baseball. Only 1 boy out of 50 heard of baseball, but none knew how to play! We had to explain what bases were, why you had to run to each one, and why the team in the field tried to get the runner out. Though it took a while to try to explain from English to Thai, they finally got the hang of it. That’s when the ball was punctured by a spiky plant and immediately deflated!



Trying to explain the basics of kickball is similar to our task ahead of us when sharing who God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is. We must start from the beginning. “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,” Genesis 1:1. Who is God? What kind of God is He? What is sin? How can God have a Son? The Hmong worship the unseen world of spirits. They have a religion of fear and constantly work for peace with the demons. We offer hope and peace through the grace Jesus gave us.



Tom Yum Goong

We finally took a Thai cooking class since we love Thai food but can’t make any of it. Now we know how to make a few simple dishes. This is a very popular soup with shrimp, lemongrass, tomatoes, and lots of herbs to make it taste delicious!

ZEEKISMS



Wasting Time?

Learning Thai is essential. Some people don't think it's important to support missionaries while they learn a foreign language because they're not engaged in sharing the Gospel. On the contrary, the people we wish to reach want to hear the Good News in their own language. Our credibility and their attention goes out the window if we always have to use a translator. Some concepts are never grasped unless you know the culture of the people to whom you minister.

Learning Thai

While we may not have exciting stories from new believers right now, we are learning the keys to the Asian culture. There are Thai words that have no English translation because it is part of their culture. Sonja is just starting to learn to read and write - a daunting task considering there are 44 consonants, 28 vowels, 5 tones, and over 20 different tone rules! Mike continues to practice listening and speaking. It is still difficult for both of us to understand native speakers! But we continue to learn more everyday.

Prayer Requests

- Continued perseverance in learning the Thai language
- Health and safety during our first hot season
- Continued wisdom and guidance for God's direction in laying the foundation for church planting work in the Hmong ministry.

Thank you to everyone who prays for us!

*Love, Mike and Sonja
Philippians 1:21*

World Economy

The weakening dollar, higher gas and food prices, and rising inflation hurts everyone, including our supporters. We thank every one of our supporters who work hard to contribute monthly to this ministry. We continue to spend judiciously as the exchange rate worsens and prices increase.

Latest Weather Forecast

Hot! Hot! Hot! The people of Thailand don't even know what a heat wave is! Despite the hot, dry, weather and the fact that there's been a drought for several months now, the annual Songkran festivities were in full blast this week. April 13-16 is a time when water is thrown everywhere and at

everyone. This is how the Thai celebrate their New Year. People line the road with buckets of water and throw it on anyone passing by. Also, water's thrown from pickup trucks. It's very dangerous to drive, and this year there were around 500 accident related deaths in Thailand.