

ZEEKISMS

APRIL 20, 2010



Isaiah 53:5

He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.



Hmong in Naj Twm. Sinjin with friend - 15 months old

Working in the Hmong Village

A loud mixture of kids squealing, dogs barking, and roosters crowing greet us in front of our “home.” The believers have welcomed us to their village by offering us a place to stay in the building where the church meets. They ran a new water pipe to our outhouse and built us a wooden bed frame. Unfortunately, there is a drought from the dry season, and most of the the village has no water. We stay overnight in the village every weekend. It is only a 35 minute drive from our house in the Thai town. We drive up to the mountain several days a week as well. The temperature is noticeably cooler on the mountain with a breeze that provides a refreshing respite from the scorching heat in the valley where the air is so still it doesn’t move a leaf. Sinjin loves playing outside and is usually whisked away by

the Hmong girls to play in the dirt with the other children. The Hmong believers have given him a Hmong name, Ntses, pronounced “en-jay” (or just say the letters N and J). It means “fish” in Hmong.

Learning the Hmong language is a challenge. We’re using our limited Thai to learn Hmong, which requires us to translate in our heads from English to Thai to Hmong. The Hmong is easier than Thai in regards to reading, but pronouncing the sounds is more difficult. We are looking for a language helper who can meet with us regularly. Right now we have been talking to different people, but not everyone is a suitable teacher for us. Mike has been learning Hmong by reading through the Bible. Not only does this help him, but it also helps the Hmong hear the Scripture.

Our Contact Information

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Mike installing the new water pipe



Our Mission Agency

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Praise and Prayer Items

We had many praises these past three months.

Good news: we have not heard anything from the Bangkok police about the slander charge. This means we've been cleared of the charges.

Several people have visited us during this time. Melanie, the woman from Texas, stayed with us for a month. She is excited about coming back and working in Thailand, but now she has to work out the details. A couple from CA also stayed overnight for one night while they were looking for a Hmong village to live in and share the Gospel. Finally, friends of ours in Chiang Mai trekked the six hour drive to visit with us for Songkran, the Thai New Year (April 12-15.) We were greatly encouraged by all of them. We hope you will plan on visiting us, too!

We're also excitedly planning for our return back to Pennsylvania for 9 months starting in August. It'll be 3 years since we've left, and we want to meet as many of our prayer supporters as possible. (Please pray for available housing and transportation.)

Mike started teaching English in the elementary school in the village. It has proven to be an effective tool to build relationships with the Hmong families. The kids say "Hi" to us when we see them in the village. The new school year starts mid-May, and we look forward to teaching again until we leave for furlough.



Mike and Melanie teaching English

Sonja has started to learn how to cross-stitch. The Hmong women seem eager to teach. Most Hmong girls learn how to cross-stitch at 6 or 7 years old. The girls giggle at Sonja, because she is sewing the basic patterns like they are.

Many have asked about the protests in Bangkok. We are safe and not affected by them at all. We do thank you for your prayers for our health and safety.

Please pray for...

- Finding dedicated language helpers.
- The Hmong Christians and their spiritual growth.
- That our visa will be renewed without any problems. (The paper work has been submitted. Now we just have to wait.)
- The many details and preparations that have to be made before we come back to the US.

*God bless, and thanks for all your support,
Mike, Sonja, and Sinjin*

PICTURES



Top: Our bed that was made for us by one of the believers (the bedspread is from Mexico).

Middle: Sonja learning how to cross-stitch.

Bottom: Two students that Mike teaches English to.