

ZEEKISMS

MIKE, SONJA AND SINJIN ZEEK

JANUARY 18, 2011



Christmas with our family, Sinjin playing in the snow, and asleep under our display table

Plans for the Future

What are God's plans for us in 2011?

As excited as we were to come home and see our friends and family, we're equally excited to return to our friends in Thailand and get our hands dirty, literally! (Mostly from falling down in the clay mud that's always present throughout the rainy season.) However, we need to raise additional financial support so we will be 100% funded and not worry about finances when we arrive in Thailand.

In the last newsletter we mentioned finding the Hmong Bible in audio format. We found the entire audio New Testament in Hmong! We hope that we can distribute the Gospel

and the Bible via an MP3 solar-powered player to those that we can reach and into places we cannot go. We have also found materials on teaching the Hmong how to read and write their own Hmong language. Hebrews tells us, "the Word of God is living and active," (Hebrews 4:12). It actively changes lives and reveals God's awesome nature to us.

We also hope that the Hmong will evangelize their own village and not rely solely on us. This is why it's important for them to learn how to read and teach others. Paul commanded Timothy to "devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching" (1 Tim 4:13). Fortunately, the complete Bible is available in

the White Hmong language. However, a big hurdle we have to jump, is that the Hmong feel like they can't share their faith until they have a Bible college education,

"The Lord says, 'These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.'" Isaiah 29:13

which is too expensive for most of them. We must teach them that any Christian is able, and commanded to share the Gospel. We hope that they will do it from their hearts, to please God, not us.



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On a More Personal Note...

We're enjoying every moment we have with our families.

We have less than 4 months until we return to Thailand. Our families would rather not think about that. One of the most common questions we're asked is, "Don't you miss your family?" Of course we do! It's one of the hardest aspects of living in a country on the other side of the world. When we take our focus off God, it's easy to be tempted to leave the mission field. Jealousy can set in as we see pictures of our families gathering without us, or how we wish Sinjin could see his grandparents more often. But we are reminded that the reason we're in Thailand is not for us, it's for God who has given us life eternal. The Holy Spirit reminds us that the Hmong we talk to every day need the message of salvation just as much as we do. God uses us imperfect vessels to deliver His perfect love and truth.



Hmong ladies, who made the tissue box covers. Kab Nplia and Anabel Rulison who helped us tremendously with translating the Hmong for our video presentation.

Another issue deep in our hearts is to adopt a child from Thailand. Already we have encountered obstacles and we have barely started. Before coming back to the U.S., we found out that we need to get fingerprinted in the U.S. for a background check. Now we've also learned that these fingerprints expire a year from the time they're taken. We're not sure if this means we have to be matched with a child in this time frame or have everything finalized in this time. We are hoping to adopt a Hmong child but we will put this in God's hands.

Short-term missions anyone?

If you are at all interested in coming and helping us please let us know. There are plenty of opportunities for you to be a part of this ministry to the Hmong. Teaching English, playing sports, basic computer skills, etc. Don't worry, we won't just drop you off and leave you all alone to fend for yourself. You will have plenty of memories, though.



Praises: We had the best time celebrating Christmas with our families. Sinjin turned two on Christmas Eve and loved opening every present in sight. The cousins loved playing together, and they all dressed up in their pajamas.

Prayer Requests

- ***Pray for additional prayer and financial supporters.**
- ***For short-term mission teams to partner with us.**
- ***For continued health and safety in traveling to meet our supporters.**
- ***For the Hmong in our village to continue meeting together and encouraging each other in Christ.**
- ***For the beginning of the adoption process - gathering paperwork and fingerprints for background checks.**