

Chang Chronicles

~ February 2012 ~



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The saying goes for dengue fever that, "It will not kill you but you sure feel like you're dying!" Why? The reason is because this mosquito-borne illness brings about terrible body aches along with fevers, followed by nausea, loss of appetite, rashes, and a drop in platelets in the body. Dave was the lucky recipient of this fever this month!

There were moments he really felt like he wanted to die, and there were intense moments of spiritual battle where he questioned why he is even here in Thailand. Yet our Lord was gracious, and He reminded us of 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 through a supporter ("My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"). He also reminded us through the OMF Daniel Retreat (for language & cultural learners) this past weekend of the vision and calling He has given us for Thailand.

We were physically refreshed yet we were also mentally reminded of the great need for the gospel in Thailand. Dave was reminded of a conversation he had with a Thai lady named Jib during our train ride up to Chiang Mai this past Christmas (they tell us to always look for opportunities to practice your Thai with natives, and what better opportunity than on a train – before the native falls asleep, of course!). Jib, a master's graduate working as an aviation industry analyst, was delighted to hear that Dave was learning to speak Thai and had taken a real interest in Thailand and the Thai people. She was curious why we were here, which led to a conversation about Christmas and Jesus Christ. For her, she studied about Christianity in a religious studies class in college, yet Christmas was only a celebratory holiday and about hanging out with friends. There was no real understanding that Jesus had come into this world to save people like you and me. Yet the conversation ended amicably, and she wanted to give us her contact information in Bangkok if we ever visited in the future.

We have also had the opportunity to meet some of our Thai neighbors in our neighborhood as well. There is a cheerful old lady named Mae (whom we have had over for a drink of water) as well as another lady named Nam Wan, who has been very friendly towards us. All of these experiences have reminded us that God has surrounded us or allowed us to cross path with people who need to hear the gospel. This is the reason why we are here, and this is the reason why we ask you to partner with us. Thank you for your constant prayers and thank you especially for your recent overwhelming outpouring of love and support during Dave's ordeal with dengue fever.

Gazing heavenward,
Dave, Lila, Caleb, & Caden

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Prayer Requests:

- 1. Time with God** – Pray for us to discern the voice of God in our daily lives, and to live in obedience.
- 2. Language & Cultural Learning** – We have completed 2 months of language learning! Pray that we may continue to learn the language & culture progressively. Pray also for 3 of the Thai teachers, who are not believers.
- 3. Relationships in the Community** – Pray that we may build significant relationships with our Thai neighbors (especially through our kids) and share the love of Christ through our lives.
- 4. Thai Churches** – We have had the opportunity to visit & survey a handful of Thai churches in or near Lopburi (part of central Thailand). Pray for God to raise up Thai leaders/pastors, and for evangelism & discipleship to take place.
- 5. Upcoming Travels** – Pray for our travels to:
 - Bangkok (Feb. 23-26th) to spend time with Lila's cousin's family (also missionaries).
 - Dave's travel to Penang to pick-up his RA (religious affairs) visa sometime in March.
 - Lila's travel to Bangkok for a Women's Retreat at the end of March.
 - Field visits this year to discern where God is leading us for future ministry work.



Visiting a local Thai church in Lopburi, Thailand
"It has 1 out of 4 walls (and the roof)
built so far!"

Caleb & Caden's Corner:

(Photos from December, January, & February)



~ Visited an Elephant Camp in Chiang Mai during our Christmas Break ~



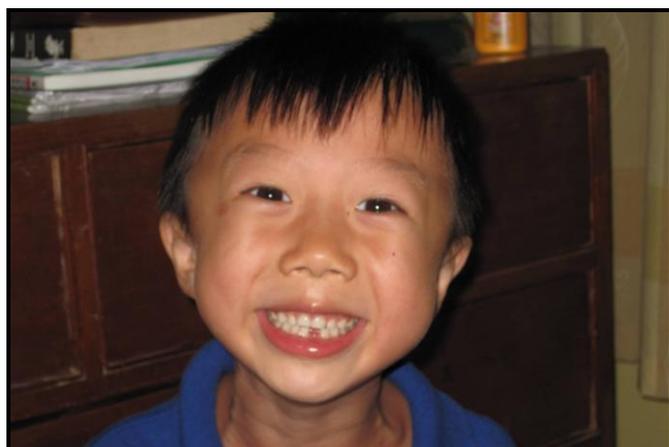
~ Caden having a blast playing outside our home in Lopburi ~



~ Caleb & Caden helping pass out gifts at a local elementary school affected by the floods in 2011 ~



~ Caleb having a Skype video call with his friend & former neighbor in Maryland ~



~ Caleb showing off his smile minus one tooth ~
"Look! I lost my first tooth already, and I got 20 baht for it!"



~ Caleb & Caden overjoyed after receiving a care package from supporters back in the States ~