

# Chang Chronicles

~ December 2013 ~



## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

For a few weeks now, we have started seeing Christmas trees being erected, holiday lights decorating houses, and cashiers wearing Santa hats all the while trying to sell holiday baskets to give out for Christmas. But what pains our hearts is that if you ask any of these Thais what Christmas is about, their answer will equate to thinking it is a “foreign” holiday for gift giving purposes only.

This was evident when we went to visit Kamnan Sak, the sub-district headman of West Pak Phanang, and his family to read the Christmas story from the bible and to sing some Christmas songs. When we asked him if he knew the meaning behind Christmas, he couldn't really give a clear answer. This was also evident when the mayor of Pak Phanang invited the church to sing Christmas songs in front of the town on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>. His office kept emphasizing that we need to make it “*sanook, sanook*” (fun), and even requested someone to dress up in a Santa Claus outfit.

Yet this is the very reason why we are here in Thailand. We are reminded this Christmas that just as Jesus Christ “became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14) and “became obedient to death – even death on a cross” (Phil. 2:8), we also want to be incarnate in Thailand bearing the cross and testifying to the good news of Jesus Christ!

Please pray for us as well as all the workers in Thailand. December is a busy month filled with outreach events to share about the true meaning of Christmas. Pray that as we throw out the seeds of God's love, they will be planted in the hearts of the Thais and bear fruit.

We want to take this time to wish you the Merriest of Christmas and a New Year filled with God's power and blessing. We are so grateful for each one of you. Your prayers and support have helped carry us through this year. We take joy in knowing that even though we are not physically together, we share in celebrating Jesus' birth together as one family in Christ.

**Gazing heavenward ~ Dave, Lila, Caleb, & Caden**



~ Christmas outreach to our neighbors in West Pak Phanang ~

## Praise & Prayer Requests:

1. Praise God! We have been in Thailand for 2 years as of November 26, 2013. Continue to pray for our language & cultural learning.
2. Praise God! Caleb & Caden will be big brothers next year. We are expecting our 3<sup>rd</sup> child sometime next June.
3. Pray for our South Thailand team. Our regional director & his family will be on home assignment for the next 9 months. Pray for our local Thai church leaders (Ms. Somjay & Mr. Dhet), and for our partnership with them as we phase out and help them stand on their own.

## December Travels & Events:

- **Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Outreach at Baan Jak Juvenile Detention Center.
- **Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Market Outreach in East Pak Phanang, selling cookies and handing out Christmas gospel tracts.
- **Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>** – Christmas Outreach in Hua Sai at Fishing Compound.
- **Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Christmas Outreach in West Pak Phanang, visiting neighbors, caroling, and handing out treats with Christmas gospel tracts.
- **Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** – Invitation by mayor of Pak Phanang to sing Christmas songs and pray a prayer of blessing for the town.
- **Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>** – Team Christmas luncheon, and then Christmas caroling in the evening with Pak Phanang church members.
- **Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>-Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Time of rest in Bangkok with Dave's parents, who will be visiting.



**Nativity skit during Christmas outreach at Baan Jak Juvenile Detention Center**



## **Caleb & Caden's Corner:**

(Photos from November & December)



**Caleb & Caden at Nakhon Si Thammarat airport.  
They are frequent flyers now!**



**Thank you Uncle Norm & Auntie Leona Derksen for coming to help with Homeschool Week & visiting the South. We welcome any short-term workers!**



**"Here's looking at you."  
Bird watching during Homeschool Week in Bangkok**



**"Single stitch or double stitch?"  
Sewing during Homeschool Week in Bangkok**



**Thank you to our supporters for all the  
care packages and Christmas gifts!**



**Saying good-bye. Rowan, another MK, leaving for  
home assignment to Australia. We will miss you!**