



Chang Chronicles

~ April 2014 ~



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Recently, I (Lila) was faced with an interesting dilemma. While at the airport going through a security line, a young monk was walking the opposite direction towards me. In Thai culture, it is forbidden for a monk to have any direct physical contact with a woman or it is considered unclean. This includes even "brushing past" each other. With the crowd making the space narrow already, only one of us could pass through while the other must step back. So who do you think gave way? The pregnant woman (me) or the young monk?

In the end, I was the one who stepped back. In Thailand, Buddhism has a strong presence and monks are highly respected and even given special priority treatment wherever they go. As a foreigner, I try to be respectful of the cultural traditions and customs of our host country, but honestly, I did have a momentary thought beforehand thinking that I should stare him down and demand that he step back and give way to the 30 week pregnant woman waddling around.

Now, I'm sure if I did wait a bit, he would have been willing to step back as well. He was a young man and all Thais are taught to be polite to those who are older than them, but later I did reflect on my action and attitude and was reminded a bit about how this situation ties into our current life here sharing God's love. As we live out the gospel, it is not with an approach that we get our way all the time but that sometimes we need to recognize that we must take a step back (or humble ourselves) to show the true love of God. We could even be in the "right" but that is not always for us to demand and show. Even with Jesus, he "did not come to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28). I'm reminded that even when we see no fruit or responses, it is my heart attitude and service that God sees. And sometimes, it is about taking that step back so God can be in the forefront and do the work. And I take joy and peace in that.

As we celebrate Good Friday and Easter here in Thailand, we are reminded of Jesus Christ's attitude and finished work, who "humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name." (Phil. 2:8-9). Once again, thank you for your prayers and support, and we wish you a Happy Easter!

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



Good Friday Service at our home in West Pak Phanang

Praise & Prayer Requests:

1. Praise God for Lila's language check on Cultural Reader module (Apr. 3rd) and Dave's language check on Research Interview module (Apr. 11th). Pray for ongoing language and culture learning progress. Dave will have another language check on May 2nd and his Level 2 Exam on May 9th-10th.
2. Praise God that Baby #3 is healthy. The delivery day is scheduled for May 25th. Pray for a smooth and safe delivery, and that this will open more doors for building relationships with our Thai neighbors and friends.
3. Praise God for a homeschool helper (Leah Goetz) for Caleb & Caden for the next 2 months. Continue to pray for their homeschool education and adaptation to living in Thailand.
4. Pray for our South Thailand team. Our regional director & his family are currently on home assignment and our team is quite small. Pray for our local Thai church leaders (Ms. Somjay & Mr. Dhet), and for our partnership with them to evangelize and plant churches in the surrounding areas.

Recent & Upcoming Travels/ Events:

- **Apr. 2nd** – We celebrated our 9th Wedding Anniversary!
- **Apr. 7th-8th** – Travel to Bangkok for our OMF 2-Year Review
- **Apr. 13th-16th** – Thai New Year (Songkran)
- **Apr. 18th/20th** – Good Friday Service at our home and Easter Sunrise Service at the beach
- **Apr. 27th** – Dave preaching/teaching at Pak Phanang Church
- **May 9th-10th** – Dave's Level 2 Exam in Lopburi
- **May 25th** – Delivery date for Baby #3



Easter Sunrise Service at the beach

Caleb & Caden's Corner

(Photos from
Mar. & Apr. 2014)



Family outing to Ai Khiao Waterfall in South Thailand



**Caleb & Caden playing with some of their
Thai neighborhood friends**



**Caleb & Caden sharing about South Thailand with
Mommy's help at OMF's Homeschool Week**



**Caleb & Caden getting ready for the
Thai New Year *Songkran*, where everyone joins in on
public water fights to usher in the hot season**



**Thank you Auntie Hannah Ho for the
special Easter care package**