

THE SARVERS

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www.two10eleven.com

WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY!

Wow! is all we can say about what has happened in the last few months since our Fall letter. Just the same as you back in the States, we have just now come out of the busy holiday season and wonder just where all the time went! This is good, because it means we were busy right? Yes! All sorts of wonderful things have been happening here in central Thailand, and we're very excited to share them with you now.

One thing that further separates the Thai culture from our own is the fact that holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas are not officially celebrated. Sure, the big cities may decorate and host special events catering to foreigners, but there isn't much outside of the material show. So, why is it that we were so busy? For Thai Christians, Christmas is not the time for family gatherings and special parties - it's prime time for evangelism! Since Thai Christians seem to be the only ones celebrating the "foreign" holiday, they become quite the curiosity to others around them and it provides a perfect window for them to share their faith.

Throughout the month of December, local Thai Christians and foreign missionaries worked together organizing outreaches in schools, city circles, and shopping centers. As per the request of some local teachers, our team worked specifically in the elementary schools. Each program lasted about 1.5 to 2 hours, including games, prizes, songs & dancing, as well as stories of Christmas traditions from America & European countries. Brook even dressed up as Santa Claus and had an important conversation with our Thai emcee about who the real star of Christmas should be. This lead straight into the story of Christ and his birth and presentation of the Gospel.

You see, since Christmas is not officially celebrated in Thailand (due to it's Buddhist roots and culture), teachers and schools enjoy having foreigners come in to teach their students about it. They see it as an opportunity to expose their students to other cultural traditions as well as give them native English speakers to practice their language skills with. In turn, we are allowed to present the Christmas story and Gospel right there in the school.

Praise God for this chance to share the Gospel and all of the Thai Christians who stepped out in sharing their faith!

Student Outreaches



What's up & Coming up...

Aside from the busy ministry season and continuing our study of the Thai language, we have been spending a lot of time in travel and making important decisions about our future here in Thailand.

In December, we spent one full week in Bangkok exploring possible ministry locations for us upon completing our first year of language school. We met with local Thai pastors and fellow missionaries, learning what ministries are open to us when the time comes. As first-termers, much of our time will still be spent in language study, though not in a formal setting. It is important that we find a good fit where we can partner with an already established ministry to not only serve, but continue learning just how to use what God has given us to reach out to the people of Thailand. Please continue to pray with us as we try to discern where is best for us to serve as we continue our lives here in Thailand.

In January, we made a quick trip to Penang, Malaysia to pick up Brook's long-term RA Visa (1-year renewable)

and get the process started for his Thai work permit. Once the permit is given, Sara will tag along on Brook's visa for as long as we choose to stay in Thailand.

Immediately after returning from Malaysia, it was time for our annual week of leave to rest, refresh, and recharge for the next 6 months of language study and ministry. We spent our time relaxing in the sun, enjoying God's beautiful creation, and reconnecting with one another in a setting outside of work. It was a wonderful chance to rest and reflect together on just how far we've come in the past year. It's amazing to see what all the Lord has brought us through!

Up next in February, we will travel to Singapore for a 1-month course with OMF for further training and getting to know fellow missionaries on the field.

If you'd like more photos and stories of what's been going on, please visit our blogs and Facebook pages below.

We would love to hear from you!

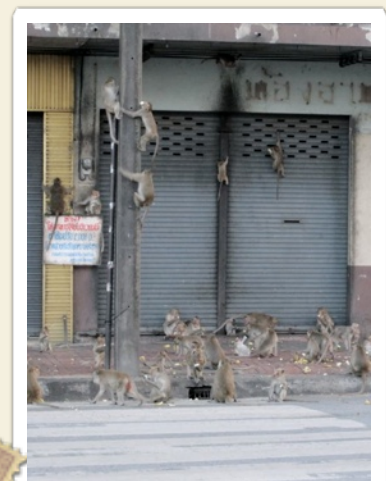
POINTS FOR PRAYER

- ✦ **Praise** God for rest and refreshment during our week of leave in January.
- ✦ **Praise** God that we've received Brook's 1-year RA Visa, and his work permit is now in progress!
- ✦ Pray for our **upcoming travel** to, from, and while in Singapore - February 15 to March 14.
- ✦ Pray for Thailand's 64 million people who are **92% Buddhist** and **less than 0.5% Evangelical Christian**.
- ✦ Pray for our **Thai language helpers** and their families.
- ✦ Pray for **our families** and their continued adjustment to the distance between us.
- ✦ Pray for our **daily adjustment** as we adapt to the Thai food, Thai culture, learn the language, and continue building relationships with the Thai people.

Ways to Get Involved

1. **PRAY!** - Remember to lift us up during our first term in Thailand!
2. **SEND!** - Please make checks payable to:
Churches of God, General Conference - PO Box 926 Findlay, OH 45839
Designate gifts for CC 2762 - Michael and Sara Sarver Support
or visit <http://www.cggc.org/CCMSarver.htm> to give online!
3. **KEEP IN TOUCH!** -

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It's true that monkeys run freely in our city every day - just take a look at them!