

THE SARVERS

December 2010

Issue # 6

In case you missed it last time, look below for our new info.

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..."

Philippians 2:10-11

CHURCH CAMP - THAI STYLE



At the end of this past October, we had the privilege of spending a full weekend of worshipping, praying, and sharing vision with the members of our church here in North Bangkok. How exactly did we do this? By going to camp, of course!

For three days, we met with a group of about 50 Thai believers talking about just

what it is that they believe God has in store for the church and its people. We were very encouraged to hear several members mention that church planting and reaching out to the community were on their hearts as important next steps in the life of this body. Time was taken to study Scripture and work together on goals for this next year of ministry as well.

In addition to all of the "hard work," we also had the chance to spend time getting to know our church family in a different way, in an environment outside the church walls. We took a trip to a local floating market, played games, took walks through the



jungle around us, had late night chats, and got to know a lot of kids. Here, in a society where relationships are key, the time we had to deepen these friendships was of incredible value.

While our time with fellow believers was great for building trust and working together, it was also a very stretching experience for the two of us. The camp we stayed at consisted of a group of old wooden houses on stilts, over a small river, set far back in a former coconut plantation. There were small boats coming and going all day long, some selling food, others merely using the water as their sole form of transportation to and from town. This was our first experience with Thai river life, and it was quite the adventure!

Out of all who attended, we were also the only ones who spoke English! Though we certainly didn't understand everything that went on, we were able to pick up on the main ideas in meetings, pray together, and carry on conversations during the downtimes. Praise God for what language skills we have acquired so far!



Our New Address!

Brook & Sara Sarver
38/138 M.1
Rangsit-Nakornnayok Rd.
T. Rangsit A. Thanyaburi
Pathumtani 12110
THAILAND

To see more photos, head over to Sara's page on Facebook.

What else is going on?

The past few months have been busy again as usual. We have had the opportunity to host two rounds of guests in our home - our first visitors from the States, then a group of single missionaries serving in Cambodia. It was both refreshing and a joy to spend some time with others from our own culture, converse in English, and see Thailand for the first time again through fresh eyes.

We have also continued to develop our language skills while studying with our helpers from the community. We have been in our new neighborhood long enough now that people are becoming more open to our presence, even stepping out of their comfort zone to actually chat with us. It has been wonderful finally getting to know more people as we go on walks or take a jog down the main road each day. Who ever knew it would feel so good to hear a neighbor call out your name, as you pass by on the street, just to have a chat? Praise God for the beginning of new relationships that we hope to continue nurturing throughout our time here in Thailand!

We have also had the honor of attending the wedding of two friends in our church, went to visit prominent temples in our area, and celebrated a few major Thai holidays. (See picture below.) We praise God each day for the experiences we are given, so that we may learn more about the culture in which we now live.

Another exciting thing that has begun in the last few months is a weekly prayer meeting held in our home. In our neighborhood, there are many families and lots of children. Among these families is one young couple who also attend our church. They are actually the ones who helped us find our home, and who recommended this community for a future church planting project. Each week, we get together to discuss and pray about what we see going on in our community, in the life of the church, and how we can connect those two worlds with one another. Please be praying with us as we consider the process of laying groundwork for a new church body to be planted in our area, and for those from the Rangsit church who will spearhead the effort.

POINTS FOR PRAYER

- ✦ **Praise** God for blessing us with a home, our health, and for meeting our daily needs.
- ✦ **Praise** God for our language helpers and continued Thai study.
- ✦ **Praise** God for new growth in relationships with the neighbors in the area.
- ✦ Pray for **wisdom** as we continue working within our community and the Rangsit church.
- ✦ Pray for **Christmas outreaches** happening in churches throughout Thailand this holiday season.
- ✦ Pray for Thailand's 68 million people, of which most are **held in bondage** by Thai folk Buddhism, animistic beliefs, and spirit worship.
- ✦ Pray for us and **our families** as we continue life apart from each other.



November's big holiday, **Loy Krathong**, is when people all over Thailand pay homage to the water spirit and ask for sins to be taken away by floating small, beautiful flowered boats in the rivers.

Ways to Get Involved

1. **PRAY!** - Remember to lift us up during this 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!** -

	<i>Brook</i>	<i>Sara</i>
Email:	brook.sarver@gmail.com	saraj.sarver@gmail.com
Web:	www.two10eleven.com	www.unglamorouslove.com
Skype:	michael.sarver	sara.sarver
Facebook:	Michael Brook Sarver	Sara 'Santefort' Sarver
Twitter:	two10eleven	unglamorouslove