

## THE WOODEN GATE – June 2007

“Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations....See, your Savior comes!” (Isaiah 62:10-11)

18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Matt 16:18-19

Greetings from our new home in Chiang Mai!

10 June 2007

The view out our window has changed, our kids have biked over to a friend's house to play, our neighbor just came over to help us with our computer, we walked 10 minutes to get to GIS school the other night for an art show, we've had friends over twice this week for a meal...we love our new neighborhood and house!



pastor from Kenya who was in town for a conference.

We moved on May 26<sup>th</sup> with the help of friends and a moving company. The move went smoothly and we've spent the last two weeks unpacking, cleaning, shopping for necessary home items, fixing little things here and there, etc. We fall into bed at the end of the day exhausted but thankful for all that the Lord has done to help us through this transition. Our guest room got its' first occupant last night with the visit of an old schoolmate of Mike's from Dalat School in Malaysia where they went to high school. There is an open invitation for anyone who wants to come visit! Earlier in May we also were privileged to host a

### Teaching / Ministry

We are excited to inform you that Mike was accepted at the new Spiritual Life Director at Grace International School (GIS). Praise the Lord! We are excited, humbled and a bit overwhelmed by all that he anticipates doing next year but feels up to the challenge. The school will be building him an office this summer and he will spend the meantime getting Chapel planning teams together and begin looking ahead to all the activities he will be involved in. **Please pray for him as he organizes for this upcoming year and that God will be glorified.**

Mike has also begun a month of teaching English grammar at the Chiang Mai Theological Seminary. He started on May 29 and will continue until June 29. He is helping graduate students, Thai pastors and church leaders, as they prepare to learn Greek. Learning English grammar is a prerequisite for taking Greek courses. He is really enjoying this opportunity to help train Thai leaders and pastors to better understand and communicate the Word to the Thai people. There is quite a range of English proficiency in his class which is a challenge. There is even a woman who is blind and takes notes on a manual Braille machine and tapes the lectures so her computer can

transcribe what was said. Thankfully, her English is one of the best in the class so she is doing well. June 6<sup>th</sup> was a big day in our household. It was not only the last day of school for both of the boys but also it was Wendy's last day at Little Stars. After 3 and a half years she packed up her things, said her goodbyes and left with feelings of both sadness and joy. She spent the last few weeks training her replacements, weaning off her responsibilities and trying to get things set up to continue in her absence.

**Please pray for Amanda and Judi (see photo) who will be teaching her classes, that they will make a smooth adjustment and have the opportunity to see the gospel lived out in the lives of the staff.**



Wendy is really looking forward to teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at GIS next year. She has the keys to her classroom and has already started organizing her room. There is lots of work to do but she has some time this summer to prepare. She hopes to work closely with the other 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, Amy Blair, in both planning and in coordinating activities.

## Family Life



Of course, the big family news is our move. We've included a few pictures so you can get an idea of what we look like "in our natural habitat". The living area and kitchen are smaller than our old house but the bedrooms are larger. We also have two upstairs bathrooms now which is very nice. The

bathroom showers are Thai style which means they are completely tile and there is a showerhead on the wall next to the toilet and no curtain so everything gets wet. We also have part of our kitchen/utility room outside in the back of the house. There is a fenced-in covered area where we put the gas oven, freezer, washer/dryer, dryer racks and kitchen work table. Inside is the sink, refrigerator, table, cupboard, microwave, etc. It is a bit different but our helper, Bray, and I are adjusting. Now if we can get used to all the new kinds of bugs that we are seeing at this house, (cicadas, praying mantis, beetle of all shapes and sizes, various ant species, spiders, a few cockroaches – all dead now – and various miscellaneous flying bugs. We are surrounded on two sides by empty lots when occasional Brahman cows come to graze. We've even killed a snake that wandering into our outdoor kitchen. Bray, summarily, killed it without much ado. Thank you for all your prayers through all our life transitions.

---

### Our new address and phone numbers is:

201/3 World Club Land , Soi 12  
T. Nong Kwai, A. Hang Dong  
Chiang Mai , THAILAND 50200  
0-66- 053-131-107

---

Our next newsletter may be a bit later in the month as we are planning to attend the Siam Mission's annual Field Forum again this year. We always look forward to this opportunity to get reacquainted with the other C&MA missionaries serving here in Thailand . It will again be in Cha-Am, a coastal town about 3 hours drive south of Bangkok . Don't worry, it is not so far south as the areas that have been in the news for violence from the Muslim extremists. Mike and I are also helping plan the week this year. **Please pray that it will be a meaningful time of hearing God's Word, of refreshment and of connecting with other. Pray for the teams from Canada who will be coming to do the children's and music programs for us.**



Thank you also for praying for Alex and his strange allergic reactions he had for about two weeks during May. We believe he contracted a virus that caused his body

to begin fighting off almost everything he ate and some external things, too. He reacted with hives (see photo) over his entire body after eating just about every known food allergen. We reduced his diet to plain rice, fresh fruit and vegetable and plain meat. After three days of this diet his body seemed to recover somewhat and we began re-introducing foods one thing at a time. After a week, he was not reacting to anything and has been fine ever since. Praise God! Also, Ethan swam again on the swim team and did well at the swim meet. Now he is playing baseball for the summer!

---

Living in Chiang Mai

One of the challenges of living in another country is trying to get things fixed or installed. Our computer Internet, specifically our ability to send emails from our main email address, has been uncooperative. We have to make numerous calls to non-English speaking service people who give us marginally helpful advice. Or, we have someone come to the house to fix something and we try to explain with lots of hand motions what needs to be done. Our new landlords have been very accommodating but there have been many phone calls with much racking of our brains for the long lost Thai word for “bamboo blinds” or “weather stripping on the screens to keep the bugs out” (not that we actually learned these words in Thai class anyway). We are thankful for patient Thai friends who suffer through our efforts to use Thai.

**Praise God for:**

- ...For God's grace in ending well at CEC/Little Stars
- ...For Mike getting the Spiritual Life Director position at GIS
- ...For a successful and uneventful move to our new home
- ...For Alex's complete healing from his virus/allergic reactions
- ...Ethan's starting baseball and being able to spend time with friends close by.

**Please Pray for:**

- ...Mike's lesson planning and instruction with his class at the Seminary
- ...Our preparation and planning for Field Forum
- ...Mike and Wendy as they prepare for the upcoming school year
- ...The ministries we have left behind, that they will continue to thrive
- ...A good relationship with our new landlord, our new neighbors and colleagues
- ...God to lead a few more people to join us as financial partners

Amazed by His Goodness,

Mike, Wendy, Ethan and Alex Wood  
Serving the Lord in Chiang Mai , Thailand

---

=====  
If you would like to become a financial partner with us in this ministry:

**Tax-deductible donations** can be sent with our name on the memo line to:  
Snoqualmie Valley Alliance Church (SVA) [www.svaonline.org](http://www.svaonline.org)  
P.O. Box 2178  
North Bend, WA 9804

---