

## THE WOODEN GATE – *November 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)

Sawadii! (Hello!)

November 10, 2007

As I type this letter seven 8-10 year-olds are not really sleeping in Ethan's room. We are in the middle of a Star Wars sleepover birthday party. It has been fun to prepare for and the kids are having a great time, aside from my R2D2 cake whose layers kept sliding, making it a bit lop-sided. The Han-burgers, fruit-sabers and Yoda soda were a hit. Tomorrow we wake up to Wookie waffles! Needless to say we are a bit exhausted so will keep this letter short.

### **Teaching / Ministry**

Thank you everyone who have prayed for us regarding our work for the Lord here in Thailand . It's been so encouraging knowing people are praying for us – we need it every day!

Hume Lake camps were a great success for all the students who attended. There were over 400 students from all around Thailand who attended. About 20 college age students, the keynote speaker and a few coordinators came to Thailand to put on the camp. Over 35 other adults volunteered as counselors to help make the camp run smoothly. God really moved in the hearts of the kids and many commitments were made to live lives of honesty, purity and integrity. In the words of one quiet high-schooler we know, “It was AWESOME!” **Please pray that the work that was begun in many hearts will continue to flourish in the years ahead.**

One of the realities of life overseas is dealing with issues regarding visas, work permits and other immigration issues. When we came to work at Grace International School (GIS) the school began the three month long process of acquiring a work permit for us. At our former school (CEC) it was done under Mike's name. At GIS they wanted to use Wendy's name as I have a better educational profile for the Thai government. What we didn't realize was that Wendy's initial visa that she came over on has been allowed to expire as we were using Mike's visa at CEC. This now necessitates a trip to a neighboring country to apply for a new visa for Wendy. This was very unexpected! So, over the Christmas/New Years break we now find ourselves bound for Malaysia for 5 days to take care of this matter. Mike is pleased that he can finally show us all Dalat School in Penang where he graduated from high school. **Please pray for God's provision to help cover this need.**

Please keep GIS in your prayers this month as we await a decision to be made regarding the property that the school is built on. **Pray for a conciliatory agreement to be reached before the Nov. 30 deadline.**

### **Family Life**

Thank you for praying for Ethan and Alex this last month. We have seen some steady improvement in their adjustment. We are making a greater effort, too, as parents to spend one on one time with them.

Soccer has started and it is so cute to see Alex out there with about 8 other kindergarteners learning soccer skills. Next month we gear up for a Scooby Do birthday party for him, too, as he turns six.

We were able to get out of town for a night during our October break to Chiang Rai about three hours north of here. We visited the famous Golden Triangle where the three countries of Thailand , Burma and Laos all meet at a fork in the Mekong River . The boys were fascinated by the different sights on the Laos side when we took a boat trip across the river (the picture is taken while on the Laos side). We are also looking forward to Grandma and Grandpa Wahlstrom coming out to visit us over the Christmas break. The boys can hardly wait!

## **Living in Chiang Mai**

Bugs! They are an everyday reality living here in the sub-tropics. Ants are our main nemesis. They are prolific, resilient and get into everything. We have a special ant cupboard with the legs in special bowls that hold water to create a moat to keep the ants out. These ant cups are also on the legs of our kitchen table. Today, however, we experienced a reprieve from the pests. We finally broke down and called a company to come and spray the house. Sigh! So, for now the cockroaches and ants and the mouse/rat (same word in Thai) that lives between our floors, are no longer in control! Praise the Lord!

### **Praise God for:**

- His doing a great work at the Hume Lake camps
- Pest control!
- Our two great boys and their adjustment to all the changes they have faced lately
- For the excellent response to the chapel program so far at GIS, God has really used the time to grow the students closer to Him

### **Please Pray for:**

- The on-going situation with the school property
- Provision for our visa trip to Malaysia
- Follow up in the lives of those who made commitments at Hume Lake
- one of Wendy's students who is experiencing a lot of anxiety right now and for a high schooler Mike is working with at GIS who is going through a heavy spiritual crisis right now.

Trusting in His grace and care,  
Mike, Wendy, Ethan and Alex Wood  
Serving the Lord in Chiang Mai , Thailand

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If anyone would like to send a package to us for any reason...J please send it to the following address:

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178/832 M. 7, Chiang Mai-Hod Road KM 10  
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THAILAND

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