

THE WOODEN GATE – September 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)

11For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. *Titus 2:11-14*

Peace to you from the Wood Family!

8 September 2007

Praise the Lord for a great new school year beginning, both here and with many of you, too! We are so grateful to you, our friends and family for praying for us as we launched a new school year and for your faithful support of the work here. We are truly humbled and blessed.

Teaching / Ministry

It has now been almost a month since the school year began on Aug. 14. The days are full the work is gratifying and the time, well-spent. We are adjusting to both of us working full-time in jobs outside the home – which means we need to be intentional about carving out family time. Alex is only half days and has a long afternoon waiting for the rest of us to come home from school. Mike is able to come home for lunch a few days a week and we are setting up play-dates at the homes of some of Alex’s classmates for him several times a week.

Last month we gave you a short history about Grace International School (GIS). If you have any questions or want to know more about how to support us or the school, please let us know.

Wendy has really enjoyed getting to know her new class of 3rd graders. They are all missionary kids except for one student, Fer, a Thai girl who has a Swiss step-dad. She is a sweet-heart and always has a smile on her face. The other day, she hurt her toe and was asked if she wanted to have her toe prayed for. She answered with complete sincerity, that she was not a Christian and thought that Christian prayers might not work on her. **Please keep Fer in your prayers and help us all to be the hands and words of Jesus to her this year.**



Everyday, Wendy feels more and more comfortable with the students, the routine and the curriculum. There has been a steep learning curve for both of us but God is faithful and has helped us all along the way. It is such a delight to be able to teach from the Bible everyday and to give God glory for all that He has done out loud with the students. We pray for each other, memorize scripture and discuss life issues unique to living overseas. We are having a great time!

Besides being GIS chaplain and theology teacher for the 11th and 12th graders Mike has also enjoyed helping coordinate middle school and high school camp. Hume Lake Camps in California is a professional camping ministry. They put on a camp every other year for the youth of Chiang Mai (specifically for MKs but anyone can come). Students who have attended in the past say it is THE highlight of the year. October 16-19 is the middle school camp and October 20-23 is the high school camp. Many logistics involved setting the camp up. Thankfully, Hume Lake actually puts on the camp; we here in Chiang Mai provide the venue and camp counselors. This year the theme is ‘what are your spiritual gifts and how do you use them for God?’ wrapped in a kung-fu story line. **Please pray the kids have fun learning more about who they are in Christ and how to serve Him fully.**



Thanks for praying about the chapel retreat Aug 17 & 18. It was great fun and a time for the chapel leadership to establish rapport and exchange good ideas for chapels this year. Mike stayed up past midnight playing games and laughing his eyes out – something he hasn't done for a long time. They also had a good time of prayer and testimony time.

As many of you know, Mike has been visiting foreign prisoners on Tuesdays as a part of the Community Church 's outreach program the past couple of years. Two weeks ago, one of the men (we'll call him Joseph) asked to receive Jesus into his heart. Joseph is formerly Muslim in his faith and has been searching for a long time for the truth. What an honor it was for Mike to help lead this man to Christ! **Please pray for "Joseph", that he will grow in faith and knowledge of our**

Lord and will be a strong witness to the other Muslim prisoners.

One major event we are gearing up for is Mike's trip back to the US on Sept. 27th to Oct. 5. He is scheduled to complete his ordination exam with the Pacific Northwest District of the Christian & Missionary Alliance. The interview will be held on Oct. 3 at 9:30am in Puyallup. **Please keep Mike in prayer during the time of preparation and for the exam itself.** May God's will be done.

Mike would love to meet with each and every one of you during this trip home but he has only a week, most of which will be meeting with his mentor and preparing for the exam. Please forgive us if he doesn't get in contact with you while in town. Of course, he will be picking up a "few" things for the family and GIS while home, too. He is hoping to attend North Seattle Alliance's 8:30 service and Snoqualmie Valley Alliance's 11:30 service on Sept. 30th.

We have also had the opportunity to lead worship at the English-speaking Community Church here. It has been a blessing to us as we usher people into God's presence. It looks like we may be helping out on a rotational basis once every month or two.

Family Life



As we examine our life here in Chiang Mai we know that God has blessed us beyond our expectations. We have a home, a ministry we love, healthy kids and a fairly convenient city to live in. Serving the Lord overseas is not, however, without a price. We were reminded of it several times this month as we were unable to attend a couple of family events we are really sad to have missed. First, Caleb Wilson, Mike's sister's eldest son, was married in August to a lovely lady and fellow YWAMer named Sarah. Secondly, we missed being a part of the 100th Birthday celebration for Wendy's grandmother in Minnesota on Aug. 25th. Family members sent photos from both events but it's not the same as being there. Thank the Lord, though, for email and internet phone calling. From our computer we spoke to family member on their cell phone at the 100th birthday party and it only cost about 50 cents! By the way, we love to get digital photos through email. We would be thrilled if you sent us photos of you and your family so we can see the changes and happenings in your lives.



Alex is really enjoying being a kindergartener. He is a model student, his teacher says and he is always eager to learn something new. As completely biased parents, we think he's absolutely adorable in his school uniform with his big kindergarten bag. There are 10 boys and 4 girls in his room and the teacher, Mrs. Jarot, just can't get enough of them all.

Our new address and phone numbers are:

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Chiang Mai, THAILAND 50230

0-66- 053-131-107

Living in Chiang Mai

We have a large 'ex-pat' (ex-patriots are non-Thai residents from other countries) community in this northern city of Thailand . And like the U.S. many countries are represented. Small communities of residents from different countries dot the landscape. And with them they bring their traditions and love of sport. This week, as some of you may not know, is the Rugby World Championships. As you can imagine, many businesses around town are offering a place to watch these games. Our friends from the British Commonwealth countries are particularly keen on viewing these games on T.V. over the next several days. British staff members at GIS are no exception. Consequently, those of us who are not that familiar with Rugby have the opportunity to rally beside our co-workers and enjoy a bit of their cultural heritage through the raising of voice and potato chips. We've also learned more about Cricket (incomprehensible game), traditional Korean sports, and national Thai sports as well. It's a great opportunity for Christians to get involved and participate which helps ease antagonism toward Christians, Jesus or the Church. The U.S. Rugby team plays the world champion England team in the first round...the U.S. doesn't have a chance...but that doesn't matter. What matters is that the Kingdom of God is being built!

Praise God for:

- ...A great kick-off to the new school year
- ...Excited student chapel teams and worship bands
- ...The salvation of a prisoner at the Chiang Mai Prison
- ...Wendy's Grandma's 100th birthday party going well this last month!
- ...All the people who have helped with travel arrangements and preparation for Mike's ordination exam

Please Pray for:

- ...Mike's ordination interview on Oct. 3 and the preparation leading up to it
- ...Mike's work to prepare for Hume Lake Christian Camp for Jr. and Sr. High students in mid-Oct.
- ...Travel and logistics for Mike's trip to the US and for the family back in Chiang Mai
- ..."Fer" in Wendy's class, for her salvation and improved English skills
- ...For balance in our school/family time management

Remembering you at this time of newly sharpened pencils, flashy backpacks and all that this new beginning holds for all of us,

In His Care,

Mike, Wendy, Ethan and Alex Wood

Serving the Lord in Chiang Mai , Thailand

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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:
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