

Calvary Chapel  
962 W. Gila Bend Hwy.  
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

# Land of Smiles

---

Newsletter of Susan Staples – Ministering in D.M.R. (Doi Maesariang), THAILAND

~ **DECEMBER 2016** ~

NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO IMMEASURABLY MORE THAN ALL WE ASK OR IMAGINE, ACCORDING TO HIS POWER THAT IS AT WORK WITHIN US, <sup>21</sup>TO HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST JESUS THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS, FOR EVER AND EVER! AMEN EPH. 3:20-21 NIV

## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE LAND OF SMILES:

Christmas is always a fun time in Thailand. Churches usually use this time to reach out to the community and do various outreaches. It can be celebrated any day in December, so it's possible to take part in different outreaches and celebrations. My Thai church here in Maesariang held a HUGE outreach on the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Many non-believers came and heard the gospel. My pastor and his wife also hosted a luncheon for the Maesariang leadership, which shows the love of God to them. I very rarely see churches anywhere do that, and it was a blessing to political leadership here. I was also able to take part in 5 other Christmas outreaches in the area.

## RECENT CHANGES:

In October, I moved yet once again (same town, different house). I'm now living with Che, a Filipino teammate (from a Calvary Chapel in the Philippines) and two teenage Karen girls (Karen is a hill tribe group living in north Thailand). Why the move?? I'm so glad you asked! Our team leader and his wife have felt God's call to move to south Thailand and help a struggling church there. Another team member feels God calling her to work with girls & women coming out of prostitution, so she will also be moving to another part of Thailand. That leaves Che and I. God in His goodness provided a 3 bedroom house for rent. It's perfect both as a living area and for ministry. It's just off the main road, so it's easy to find and also quiet. One of the upstairs bedrooms is large enough for 3 bunk beds, so if God brings us more girls in the future, we have the space for them!

The two teenage girls, **Sai (8<sup>th</sup> grade) and Da (7<sup>th</sup> grade)** are sisters. They were living with my team leader Eric and his family. Eric and his family left for the USA for three months in October, and the girls just naturally moved in with Che and I. Living with these girls has made me realize how much I miss living with teenage girls! I confess that two years ago I never thought I would say that, but these two girls are a blessing. Sai accepted the Lord when she was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade when her teacher shared the gospel with her. Da just came to live with us this year and is learning about who Jesus is and what He has done for us. She is very

Susan Staples

December 2016 Newsletter

immature in more ways than one (due in large part to age and family background) but has a very fun and outgoing personality. She keeps us laughing and on our toes, that’s for sure! Sai is more mature, and she soaks in everything she can from the Bible. God is working in her life in a mighty way.

**ENGLISH TEACHING:**

I’m now teaching English at two different schools. I teach at Tongsawat School 3 hours per week and at Naam Dip School 6 hours per week. I teach 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grades. I get to weave the gospel in as I teach. Some of the students are interested and some crack jokes, but everyone is hearing the gospel. Please pray for receptive hearts and for the Holy Spirit to move in a mighty way.

We are also still teaching English club Mondays to Thursdays 5-6 PM. The students range in age from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. We teach English for 45 minutes and the Bible (in Thai) for 15 minutes every day. We were teaching English for a full hour 3 days a week and then Bible and English worship songs for a full hour on the 4<sup>th</sup> day. Many of the students didn’t come on a day when they knew we would be teaching Bible, so we decided to change it. It’s more prep time, but from what I’ve observed, it’s bearing much more fruit and the kids are now starting to ask questions and show interest. We have about 15 students that come regularly. Among them are **On and Boom** who ask a lot of questions during Bible study, but still haven’t opened their hearts to Jesus.

**Kratee** is a 9<sup>th</sup> grader who has been coming to English club for about two years. Our team has been ministering to her and sharing with her the entire time. She is VERY close to accepting the Lord. She is Thai and not hill tribe and we’re very excited to see what God is doing in her life. At first her parents would only let her come to English class, but now they are opening up a little and allowing her to come to Bible study. We’re looking forward to reaching out to her parents also. The work here (as far as evangelism) is SLOW, but when God moves, everyone knows it.

**BIBLE STUDY:**

Naam Dip School where I teach English has a dorm attached to the school. There are about 30 kids living at this dorm. The schools get government money for each student they have. So, many of the schools in this area advertise in the surrounding hill tribe villages. They provide room and board as well as school supplies for the students. We hold a weekly Bible study for the students at Naam Dip dorm. About 16 students come each week. Many of the students are interested in the gospel, so please pray for them!

We also have an evening worship/Bible study time with Sai and Da 3 evenings a week. **Ploy and Tu** have been coming also. Tu is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and her sister Ploy is an adult. They have been a huge blessing. They are Karen and their parents are living in a remote village. Tu has been coming to English club for about 2 years, and she’s become more interested in the gospel. They are both now growing in their faith.



Da



Sai

**FINALLY**, I’m excited about the opportunities that God has given us. I’m looking forward to the new year, and for many opportunities to share God’s love with others. There are many things that I’m thinking and praying about that I would like to do, but I’m not sure at this point if those things are from God or just from me.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

God’s will as Che and I pray about the direction of ministry opportunities in 2017

- \*Sai to grow in Christ and Da to accept Christ
- \*Tu, Kratee, On, and Boom
- \*Malee and her husband as they teach the Bible both to Prai believers and those who are interested in the Bible
- \*Boldness and courage in sharing the gospel as I teach English at school & for divine appointments
- \*For a mighty move of the Holy Spirit among the Thai people and for many people to come to know the Lord
- \*Everything that we do would be done in the power of the Holy Spirit and not in our own strength, and for God’s love to shine through us

**CONTACT INFO: PLEASE NOTE THE NEW SNAIL MAIL ADDRESS:**

**Financial Contributions:**

Please make checks payable to Go Ministries and write my account number **1246** on the “for” section of the check. Send it to:

Go Ministries     270 E. Palais Road, Anaheim, CA 92804

**E-mail:** [susanmarie777@hotmail.com](mailto:susanmarie777@hotmail.com)

**SNAIL MAIL IN THAILAND: (I’m still collecting postcards, hint hint!)**

PO Box 67

Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son

Thailand 58110