

Monday, 9 January 2012



Eagles Rest

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Dear Friend

Mum arrived on schedule and the very next day I headed back to the airport for the surprise of the year. For months I had kept tight lipped about the intended visit of Alan Morrison, the young man who spent five months with us in 2010. When I got back to the office with him tucked into the Toyota the children were almost speechless with delight. Alan is definitely one of our favourite 'family members'. Alan stayed for two weeks in the guest house and Jefferson was thrilled to be able to experience bachelorhood with him. At the same time Colleen shared the Office house with mum, and the remainder stayed at home.



Alan with the girls at the waterfalls.

On the way to the airport (first trip) we had an unexpected phone call. Friends in Bangkok were re-locating and donating many useful items to the ministry. Rommel and Colleen had a father/daughter road trip over two days and nights to collect what they could. What a blessing. This came on top of the arrival of 100kgs of donated books from the MV Logos Hope for distribution to our many Asian pastors. Again, wonderful ministry resources to add to supplies. Ning (my personal assistant) had travelled to Malaysia to collect them and with the assistance of

old and new friends there was able to bring them back without problems with customs or any holdups. It was a real team effort.

Eagles Rest Foundation is still in the early stages by any one's estimations. We have a huge vision and Asian pastors have urgent needs of which we have not even begun to scrape the surface. However, most of the vision will be just statements if we don't get the **people** needed to make it reality. The other thing of course is finance. Without it we cannot keep running even day by day. Pondering all this the other morning, the spirit of God asked me, "what would you prefer: \$10,000 or 10,000THB?" (Approx \$360) I replied, "Whichever is from YOU – or it is worthless!" How true. It is not the amount as it is often the (literal) "widow's mite" that makes the difference.

Our **urgent need** right now is sponsorship for the next Filipino couple. These two have been in ministry for 19 years. They have no regular income, have raised 4 children in the church, had a few days off – but spent them in the local town due to lack of options. They have suffered hardships with a child hospitalised (leaving large debts), the death of parents due to lack of food and shelter and no money to buy medicines. A typhoon recently destroyed their home. And through all this they remain faithfully proclaiming the joy of serving the Lord. Please contact me urgently if you are able to help **even partially** with covering their costs.

RADIO INTERVIEW

In early November I was interviewed for a radio program which aired in USA just before Christmas. It was a wonderful, God appointed, opportunity to share with a wider audience just what God is doing in

"...those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."
Isaiah 40:28-31

and through Eagles Rest Foundation here in Thailand. Check out the link below. Please pass it on to any friends or family who may be interested. The interview runs approx. 45 minutes and includes a song from our three girls. (Keep in context of the "Special land update" which came after the interview was taped). <http://totalfusionministries.org/19-field-focus-event-planner>

FIRST VISITORS OF THE NEW YEAR

Sunday January 1st was not only the first day of 2012; it was the first day for us as a family facing a whole year without Colleen. It was also the day that Rommel preached for the first time in the church we have begun attending, Romphrakhun Baptist Center.

On January 2nd Pastor Somchai and wife Aun, (along with Samuel, 12; Sai aged 11; Sarah aged 5 and Shalom 22 months) travelled from Chonburi, south West of Bangkok, to spend time with us. Due to flooded areas needing to be circumvented, they took from 8.30am -until 1am the next day in their travels. It was good to see them again and meet the newest addition to the family. As Aun home schools her children (extremely rare for Thais and needing special government permission) as well as being a major part of the church outreach AND caring for her elderly mother, they were well due for a rest and quality family time. I was also able to pass along a quantity of home school resources for Aun and her children.



Pastor Somchai, Aun, Samuel, Sai, Sarah and Shalom - first visitors in 2012.

STEPHANIE – MISSION TO HAT YAI WITH CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The day before Colleen left for Australia, Stephanie (15) said her goodbyes and headed off to Hat Yai for a short mission trip with friends from the Calvary Baptist Church in Bangkok. During the time away the team were able to share with many Burmese who live there and assist a small church being established in the area. Her New Year was spent celebrating with many new friends and knowing she was right where God wanted her to be. Her short report follows:

The mission trip to Hat Yai made me realise how blessed I am by God with so many things I have taken for granted. Meeting children my age who could not go to school made me appreciate more the education I have. My heart cried out to my Father for them. I realized again how much God cares for, and loves me. I was crushed that some of these children had to work so hard, only to be paid very little. If there was anything that God wanted me to learn it was to be more appreciative of everything I have. Please pray for the Burmese in Hat Yai – that they would come to God and trust Him even when their lives are so hard.

SCHOOL MINISTRY – CHRISTMAS/CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS



Jefferson helps the children with their costumes - Thap Put Primary school.

This request has come to us for prayer from the American teacher we work with at the Primary schools: *She says "... there is an ongoing problem with mass hysteria, (according to Ning it happens at Thai schools) and/or with spiritual opposition as kids seem to be being bothered and unable to concentrate on studies and feel compelled to lie or sit and sometimes twirl around after complaining of 'headaches'... on our way home we saw another boy with a gaudily dressed "spirit doctor" standing nearby ... I am praying that my room be a safe place because of the blood of Jesus... during class time there were two boys unable to do the work. I had the opportunity to tell*

one about Jesus' love and forgiveness and protection."

Praise God the Christmas presentations were able to go ahead at two Primary schools without incident, largely due to prayer cover from many.

Until March!



The staff joined our children and Ning in singing "We wish you a Merry Christmas"

Janene, Rommel, Colleen, Stephanie, Jefferson and Nicole Ala

SUPPORTING EAGLES REST

International

WIRE TRANSFERS

Account Name: Eaglesrest Foundation

Bank: Siam Commercial Bank, Phang Nga Thailand

Account number: 858 207421 4

SWIFT CODE (for international transfer): SICOTHBK

PAYPAL: go to www.eaglesrest.info

In Thailand

Account Name: Eaglesrest Foundation

Bank: Siam Commercial Bank, Phang Nga Thailand

Account number: 858 207421 4

In Australia

Direct transfer or in person at Westpac branches

Acct name: Eagles Rest Ministry Australia Inc

BSB: 033-679 Acct No: 238832

SUPPORTING THE ALA FAMILY

Checks/cheques can be sent to:

Ala Family Support

C/o: 2/161 Purnell Road,

CORIO VICTORIA 3214

AUSTRALIA

Please make cheques/checks out to:

"Janene Buckley-Ala"

For additional giving options contact Janene at:

alafam_eaglesrest@fastmail.com.au