

Tuesday, 29 December 2009



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A few of the local children who attended our Christmas party.



Troy helps the children with the Nativity craft.



The Hayden family present in song.

Dear Friend,

At the beginning of 2009 we only had a small glimmer of the things that God would do and the people He would bring across our paths and into our lives during that year. What a vast variety of happenings and personalities! We praise God for all the good, and not so good, experiences from which we have learnt so much and been blessed in many ways. Another year has begun – and so we look forward with great expectation of all that will unfold, knowing that we serve a God who does all things well – and in His time. The past years of preparation have been trials in patience and yet so necessary in laying the groundwork for all that is to come. We just thank the Lord for another year to serve, expecting His abundant blessings as we move forward.

The Hayden family from Hawaii managed to pack a lot in to the few days they were with us. It was a wonderful experience and we have made firm friends for life. Jefferson and Ethan were almost inseparable, as were Nicole and Sierra. On Saturday 19th the family held a Christmas party for the local children. We had about 40 children and babies, plus adults. Most of them live along the river in a small community not far from us. It was wonderful that so many new faces were seen to enjoy their time at the church. The program included craft and games all clearly presenting the story and purpose of Christ's birth.

On Sunday we attended church here in Phang Nga and again in Phuket and the family presented a message in song/sign language. Our own children also sang during the Phuket service. We also witnessed the baptism of five Thai believers in the river behind our buildings after the morning service. What a joy to see their commitment and passion to go on for God.

Monday and Tuesday saw us all at the local primary school again; this time to do three presentations of the Nativity play to different sections of the school. Our four children again had the leading roles and Stephanie and Colleen sang beautifully. Tuesday afternoon Kanoe, her husband Troy, Ethan (8) and Sierra(6) all worked with grade three classes on a simple Manger craft activity which was appreciated by the children and staff at the school.

"...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



Kanoe assisting some of the school children with their manger scenes.

We were sorry to see them all leave so soon and pray that God will lead them back again one day.

VISA AND WORK PERMIT

It seems that just when we think we have this all worked out we find another hiccup!

Although Rommel has a two year work permit with another foundation we have been granted only 90 day visas. Effectively that means every 90 days we have to go through the masses of paperwork to have our visas renewed for the next three months. The fee is the same as if we were to have the one year visa approved – only we have to pay it four times a year! The reason is that the other foundation does not have a simple letter from the Governor of Phuket allowing a one year visa to be issued for

us.

I (Janene) am attempting to obtain a work permit through Eaglesrest Foundation. If this is approved we will all be able to apply under my work permit for a full year stay. A saving of \$1500 Australian dollars over a year, although initially costing more to obtain the work permit and visas through Eaglesrest. Of course, we will also have to apply to the Governor (of Phang Nga) to supply the required letter but we expect that will be an easier process than waiting on the other foundation. Please pray about this and ask that God will go before us in preparing the government officials to be favourable to our submission.

MYANMAR FAMILIES

We now are in the process of bringing in three Burmese couples for time at Eaglesrest. Two of these families serve their own people in Thailand and the third labours in Myanmar. The family located in Myanmar are waiting on their visa acceptance so that flights can be booked as soon as possible. Please keep them all in your prayers. Other families are also being referred as the new year begins and we look to God for the resources needed to make it possible to meet at least some of the needs presented.

ANSWERS TO MINISTRY NEEDS

We praise God for answers to some of the needs posted last month. We now have a new kitchen blender which will be a wonderful blessing for guests in the months ahead (just ask the YWAM'ers who loved Rommel's mango and banana smoothies!) Our old van is sporting new rear tires and has a lot of mechanical fixing up this past month thanks to supporters who realized the need. Thank you!

UPCOMING MINISTRY NEEDS

- Our most urgent need right now is for a supervisor/teacher for our children's home school program. If you, or someone you know, have time, ability and a heart to serve, please let us know.
- Volunteer cooks for guests and visitors to Eaglesrest – ongoing.
- Volunteer English teachers for local Thai outreach- anytime from end of March when Donna leaves.
- General helpers for maintenance and odd jobs – ongoing.
- Office assistant/language helper (Thai and English required) and the financial assistance to cover the wages.
- Approximately \$600 for purchase of one set of bunk beds and mattresses for guest house.
- Microwave to replace the one that recently died. We are using a very old one that normally would be in the guest house.
- Increase in number of supporters for the general running costs and maintenance of Eaglesrest Foundation.
- Increase in regular support for our personal family needs.

God Bless you and thanks for another year of prayer and sharing in the work of ministering in Phang Nga, Thailand.

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