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Dear Friend,

### MYANMAR UPDATED



Pastor Jelee and Sung Sung (Sung Sung pictured with Colleen and Nicole at the waterfalls) arrived on February 3rd with little warning. It was a thrill to have them with us and see God working in their lives throughout the sixteen days of their stay. The delight on Sung Sung's face as she saw the ocean for the first time, even greater delight as she experienced playing in the waves, watching them enjoy good food... all these things were a privilege to share.

At first they were reluctant to eat much and I soon learnt that they were feeling guilty knowing that their children back in Myanmar were probably without adequate food. Their four boys (between 3 and 13) were cared for by a young Bible student Mary. She has been a part of the family since becoming a Christian three years ago at 16. She was forced to leave her family home when she chose Christ.

Most of the clothes they arrived with were old and ill fitting. Our Indian brother, 'Monty the Tailor' generously offered to make clothes for the couple as a love gift to them. They were surprised and thrilled as we took them to the shop where Monty measured them in preparation. They were able to choose their own styles and materials and altogether received nine pieces of expertly made-to-fit clothing.



Another supporter sent funds so that they could purchase clothing and other needs for the four boys. Our own children also supplied them with toys and snacks for the children. Pastor Jelee strained his eyes reading the beautiful new Study Bible he also received from another well wisher. He simply could not put it down. He told us in Myanmar they would be too expensive for him to ever afford even if he was able to locate one. He is looking forward to using it as he teaches his Bible students who are even poorer than he.

### SECOND FAMILY!

Thursday 11th we thought that another Burmese family was coming just to visit with us for the day for fellowship with our guests. We collected them about an hour from our place where the bus had dropped them - the air conditioning in our borrowed car was not working and the heat was unbelievably hot. Four year old Nehemiah threw up most of the way because he was so tired and overheated.

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*"...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

When we got to Eaglesrest we found out they had decided to stay with us until the following Saturday morning! We were suddenly trying to prepare the guest house (which needed so much cleaning and changing of linen etc) as well as host them and sort out meals for twelve people.

I am not complaining! It is just the type of ministry God has given to us - we NEVER know what the day will bring! (See photo of our children with the Burmese guests at the local park)



### TRAVEL BLUES

A few days before the sudden arrival of our first Myanmar guests our car was taken to Phuket for repairs (yet again). The entire time they were with us – and longer still – we waited for the mechanics to be able to locate difficult to find parts. Our old van has served us well, although it eats the petrol at an alarming rate and has become totally uneconomical mechanically. Having guests to collect, transport, shop for, deliver to places etc, not to mention our own family needs which include trips to Phuket for supplies and appointments, meant that we were reliant on loan vehicles when they were available. Occasionally we were blessed to have the use of our friends' van however, as the air conditioner did not work (neither does ours most of the time) it meant travelling long periods in uncomfortable circumstances. Two of our Burmese guests (one a four year old Nehemiah - pictured) were continually travel sick because of the heat.



It has become obvious that Eaglesrest Foundation needs a reliable, air-conditioned vehicle that is more economical and user friendly. Kindly, one of our supporters has offered Eaglesrest Foundation an interest free loan to cover two-thirds of the cost so we can begin a search for suitable transport. As the new vehicle will be **registered to Eaglesrest Foundation** we will be relying on donations to be able to add to, and then repay the loan and do any modifications necessary. Please pray we find a

suitable vehicle at a good price. You may be surprised to know that cars in Thailand tend to be very expensive – in some cases more than what you would pay in America or Australia.

### VISA UPDATE

Almost every missionary would tell you that our lives would be so much simpler if they did not involve the paper trail of dealing with government departments! We are waiting now for our full one year visas. We pray that by the time you read this we will have been granted them. So far three trips back and forward to the immigration office.

To top it off the immigration worker I have to deal with comments negatively every time I have to go there. In Thailand the requirement is that each foundation must have a 4:1 ratio of workers. That means four Thai must be employed for every one foreigner. As I am the only "employee" (although unpaid volunteer) I have continual pressure to employ paid Thai staff. As I politely tell her, "Yes, Eaglesrest Foundation does need staff, we will employ as soon as we can do so..."

### THIS MONTH AND A LITTLE BEYOND

March sees us making the ten hour drive to Bangkok to visit the Philippine Embassy where Rommel and the children need to apply in person for new passports. While in Bangkok we will also visit friends at Thailand Youth for Christ; Radio Bible Class, better known as OUR DAILY BREAD; and Calvary Baptist Church. We are grateful for having been given the opportunity to share about Eaglesrest Foundation in the morning service on the 21st March.

Just before we head to Bangkok we will begin hosting another ten students from the Baptist Seminary in Bangkok. These ten young Thai will be learning "in the field" working with missionary friends in the area. While down from Bangkok they will stay in **Tinno House** (our newly named guest house which is on loan from the Tinno family – pastor Prakop and his wife).

In April, Pastor Allan Stanley-Smith (Mannum Baptist Church, South Australia) will be returning to conduct another Bible Seminar for Thai Christians from the three surrounding provinces. The Seminar will cover two full days, followed by Sunday morning. During the last week in April he will also be available

for English outreach classes for locals. Please pray about these meetings, Allan as he prepares, and the people who will attend.

### UPCOMING MINISTRY NEEDS

- We would love to receive any Christian books to form a library for guests of Eaglesrest. Other resources such as videos, music and magazines also welcome. Some resources will be for Asian pastors to take for their home ministry (Bibles, commentaries, study books, music etc) others will be for common use by visitors. Any Asian resources especially welcome as these are often very expensive in the home country.
- **Our most urgent need is still a supervisor/teacher for our children's home school program. If you, or someone you know, have the time and ability and heart to serve, please let us know. (even a few months would be great!)**
- Financial assistance to cover wages of our (yet to be appointed) Thai personal assistant/language helper. This is an urgent need. It would cost about \$200 a month to hire someone part time in the Eaglesrest office. Also about the same amount for a full time domestic helper for Eaglesrest guest rooms and Tinno House. (Job descriptions available)
- Increase in number of supporters for the general running costs and maintenance of Eaglesrest Foundation. Always something needs replacing in the guest rooms and there are other things that need to be purchased for guest's comfort or even basic needs. We also have ongoing electric and water bills for the entire church/office/guest rooms and Tinno House.
- Volunteer cooks for guests and visitors; Volunteer English teachers for local Thai outreach; General helpers for maintenance and odd jobs...
- People travelling to Thailand who are prepared to bring in school supplies for us.
- There is still a need for more beds and bedding for Tinno House (guest house)
- Increase in regular support for our personal family needs.

Until next month.

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