

Tuesday, 24 November 2009



Eagles Rest  
Janene & Rommel Ala  
P.O. Box 1  
Muang  
Phang Nga 82000  
THAILAND

Email: [alafam\\_eaglesrest@fastmail.com.au](mailto:alafam_eaglesrest@fastmail.com.au)

Mobile phone number (66) 878922369



Dear Friend

### DOULOS, OR NOT TO BE?



Some of the visitors helped gather rocks from the river for use in the concreting.

Two weeks before it was due to arrive; we had a phone call to say that The MV Doulos ship had cancelled its planned trip to Phuket. The ship needed to undergo further maintenance and repair in Singapore where it had been in dry-dock. The team that we had anticipated was just as disappointed in the change of plans but we accepted that these things happen for a reason.

The Doulos line-up team had spent seven weeks in Phuket meeting with churches, holding press conferences and preparing volunteers and translators. We decided that they could do with some timeout after their hard work had come to nothing. The invitation to come to Eaglesrest for a couple of days before they flew out to meet the ship was gladly accepted and so we enjoyed the company of Aude (France) Konstanze and Katharina

(Germany) and Jimmy (Bangkok) for two days.

The night before our guests left they received a call from the ship. Needed repairs to the Doulos were now estimated to be between 10 and 12 Million Euros. Therefore decisions had been made to cancel all further ministries by the Doulos from December 31st this year. (The ship was due to be decommissioned within a year; this just brought the decision forward). So, although the planned Doulos team did not eventuate we had a wonderful time of fellowship with our new friends. (Who insisted on getting their hands dirty in practical ways while with us). Understandably this sudden ceasing of the plans of 280 people on board the Doulos, plus new recruits, caused very mixed emotions. We were all reminded of the verses in Proverbs that tell us that we can make all the plans in the world (or to travel the world) but ultimately it is God that sets the path. *Pr. 16:1,9 19:21*

At the same time as our Doulos friends were here, we were thrilled to have Anniina (Finland) and Paul (UK) join us. They are a young married couple with an amazing story who have moved to Thailand as missionaries. Their new home is an island off the south east coast of Thailand. We look forward to many times of fellowshiping with them on future visits.



Eating together in our house - seven different nationalities!

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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

## END OF YEAR LETTERS TO YOU FROM THE CHILDREN

What a year! First and foremost I want to thank our Father God. I also want to thank our prayer supporters; please keep on your faithful praying. Thank you, our financial supporters; God will reward your generosity. Thank you to all our ministry helpers, from those who scrub the Eaglesrest bathrooms, to those who organize supporting events for us, and to our all volunteers. Thank you all for EVERYTHING. Our God sees everything and He alone knows all things that you have done. May He greatly bless you all. I can honestly say that this was another year where God has soooo shown His faithfulness. I learnt a lot and I hope I keep on learning from, and about, my Good Shepherd (but, maybe not the hard way all the time...:) . Let us never forget His promises and His love. May His work be evident not only in 'big-official-ministries' like Eaglesrest, but also in every heart that belongs to Him. I wish you all the best for the coming year.



Colleen teaches English at Anuban Phang Nga School. The children go every few months to help teach English and plant seeds of interest in the Christian message.

Colleen (15)

To our Dear Supporters, I hope you are all well and that you are enjoying our newsletter as you read it. Thank you for your prayers and support. I like being a missionary kid. I like Phang Nga far better than Phuket. It is more beautiful with all the mountains having different shapes. I call the mountain that is at the back of us "Mt Sinai" but to tell the truth I don't know what Mt Sinai looks like. Our mountain is very beautiful and sometimes in the morning it is covered by fog. I love the mountain because it reminds me of how glorious and wonderful God our father is! If you would like to visit our place please come and I hope you will enjoy your stay here.

Thank you for your love and support and prayers for our family. May the Lord bless each one of you with a special blessing from us. Please keep praying for our family, I know no matter what happens each day, God is in control. He is not only God of the good times, but also of the bad times.

Stephanie (13)

Dear Supporters, Thank you very much for letting God use you to help our ministry. We are having lots of visitors come. It has been wonderful meeting them all and I hope every one of you guys can visit us here for you are very welcome. I know that Thailand is different from many of your countries. It rains a lot here while we pray for rain for some of you. We appreciate your prayers a lot.

Jefferson (11)

Dear Supporters, God has been so good to my family in answering our prayers. I like my place, friends, home and education. Phang Nga is very peaceful; you can even read a book quietly. I am happy because God chose this place for us to stay. Please keep praying for more supporters. May God Bless you!

Nicole (8)

## DONNA

Last month we asked for people to come and help with an English program here at Eaglesrest. One of our readers took me seriously and passed the information onto someone we had never met before. Donna Arukua is a PNG national with training in TESOL (Teaching English as a Second Language), and a passion for mission. We are thrilled and very privileged to have her coming at the end of December for three months of ministry through English Programs. A full introduction will be given next month. Please keep Donna in your prayers as she works alongside us. We do hope she will not be the last Melanesian to serve here.

## OTHER ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S MINISTRY NEEDS

Praise God we have had two families send sponsorship for Asian families coming into Eaglesrest for help in the early New Year. Sponsorship enables Asian Christian families in need to have the refreshment and family time otherwise unobtainable to them.

## UPCOMING MINISTRY NEEDS

Please share these with people you know. (Just as Donnas' friend did)

- Volunteer cooks for guests and visitors to Eaglesrest – ongoing
- Volunteer English teachers for local Thai outreach- anytime from end of March when Donna leaves us.
- General helpers for maintenance and odd jobs – ongoing
- Teachers/supervisors for Children's home School during 2010 (Australian curriculum) Short or long term.
- Office assistant /language helper (Fluency in Thai and English required)
- Financial assistance to cover wages of our (yet to be appointed) Thai office assistant/language helper
- Approximately \$600 for purchase of one set of bunk beds and mattresses for guest house.
- Donation for new kitchen blender. We use this a lot when teams are here and our second-hand model met with an accident!
- Increase in number of supporters for the general running costs and maintenance of Eaglesrest Foundation.
- The van we use for all travel with family, guests and volunteers is in need of two new tires and serious work on the suspension!
- Increase in regular support for our personal family needs.

\*\*\*\*\*For more details of any of these please contact Janene\*\*\*\*\*

Limited copies of our story are still available: Book 1 "The Healing Road to Thailand" and Book 2 "The Desires of My Heart" Endorsements can be found on the web site as well as information on how to order.

Thank you for standing with us during 2009. May the Lord Bless you and yours this Christmas, and always.

Until 2010

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