



## Saa-wat-dii! ၎်သီ

Saa-wat-dii (hello) from the other side of the world!

We greet you with many updates from this past month.

We had a wonderful Christmas season here in Thailand. While there was no opportunity for us to see snow this Christmas there were, however, many opportunities for us to share the name of Jesus around our local community, and beyond, this season.

We started with Christmas caroling (singing songs in Burmese and English) with our group and other Myanmar friends who joined in while Emily and Melody played violins and our dear brother David led us with the guitar. We went caroling at the local rubber factory to the residence there, as well as many people's homes, both Thai and Myanmar, who live in town and out in the rubber tree farms. We then went beyond our local town and into the nearby city of Chumphon and were given the opportunity to carol there to a class of Myanmar students and at the Thai immigration office! What a blessing to be able to sing about the birth of our Savior in this Buddhist nation.

We also had the opportunity to sing and present a message to the one local Thai school that Marissa teaches at.

We had a wonderful celebration for the rubber factory children with a gift exchange, games and snacks that they really enjoyed.

Finally we had a big celebration at our homes where we sang Christmas songs, shared the good news, and ate together with all who came.



As a group we are having regular weekly visitations to those who are living out in the farms, sharing the gospel, and praying with them. We even got to try our hand at rubber farming, cutting into the trees for the rubber sap. A hard job that works in the dark hours of the night, using headlamps, amongst the snakes and other creatures that like to creep out at night.

Eric, Marissa, and others are teaching English to the kids at the local rubber factory. The kids here attend school during the day from 1-4 pm learning to read and write in their language and basic math (taught to them by two Myanmar young men in our gathering that we are supporting through our ministry). Then from 4-5 pm Monday through Thursday they learn English.

We have been in contact with someone in the nearby city (Chumphon) who has a school of young Myanmar children that they have just found a place to teach them again. Eric and Bill, along with brother David and Aung Kyaw Htwe as translators, have begun teaching English to them once a week followed by visitation to surrounding Myanmar groups. We are praying for ways the Lord would open up more opportunities to reach into these communities. One way that we have seen greatly blessed is by teaching their children. This allows for connection with the parents and others in the community.

Jessica has begun teaching the adolescent/young adult English class in our home. Pray that this will be a time of blessing and relationship building and that this would open other doors to meet and build relationships with others.



## Praises and Prayer Requests

- We praise God for keeping his hand on Ben during his motorbike wreck. Thankfully only some minor bumps and bruises. He was mostly shaken up by it.
- Continue to pray for our visa status. While it may look like fun to travel and we are thankful to be able to do so, we miss our home as we felt like we were just getting settled in and during this time we are unsure how long we will have to be away for. We can't wait to be back and get back into our ministry areas and pour into what God would have us to do.
- Pray for the new connections we have made and for the teaching opportunities we seek to step into. As the local church in Map Ammarit, there are many opportunities and while we want to do everything, time and resources don't allow for that. Pray for us to have wisdom in how to best utilize our time, gifting and resources we have and pray for God to send us more people willing to go out into the harvest and work for his kingdom, as well as more resources to support the growing opportunities He presents us with!

Prayer requests continued...

- Pray for those among us who are hearing the gospel, and that God is doing a work in their hearts. We heard someone just share on a recent Wednesday night worship gathering that while she was stricken ill she remembered a teaching that she had heard in our gathering, that your days are numbered and you never know when your time will be. This (for any unbeliever) is a very scary thought. She was pondering over this and thankful to be in our gathering and hearing the good news. Pray that God will grow the seeds that have been planted and be pleased to add another to his kingdom!
- We also have some new attenders to our worship service. There was a young Myanmar man who went around with us the one night while caroling helping us locate the houses in the farms. He heard the gospel message shared many times that night in the hours of carol singing. This message has changed his thinking and his ways. He came to our gathering on Sunday with his wife and shared that normally at this time he would be drunk at this time worn out and tired and with a feeling of hopelessness. Now he knows there is another way and he didn't have the same desire to do that and instead wanted to come gather and hear more. He has said he will continue to come to our gathering and he wants to learn more. Pray the message that goes out returns many to the flock.



More current updates...

We are currently in Malaysia. This has been quite the adventure of things we have encountered (or endured) along our journey here. It is very eye opening to see yet another part of the world and how great a need there is here in this part of the world for the gospel to shine its light into these dark places.

Sadly the treatment of the patients in the government hospital is not ideal but thankfully they have had much support from our families to help them during this time. Both Moe and the baby are now doing very well and are back in their home.

Jessica has started learning Thai. She is praying for God to allow her to understand the language and retain what she is learning to soon be able to better communicate with the Thai people. This is not an easy process with a whole new alphabet to learn and many vowel combinations as well as the 5 different tones of the language. Being a tonal language means one word with just a slight variation, (even a hardly distinguishable one) can make it mean something completely different. Or worse something close but not what you meant to say. The language barrier can prove frustrating at times, but God is good at all times and in all ways so we continue to strive on and look to him to be our strength.

We have made contact with another factory a few minutes outside of our town. They have a school there for the Myanmar workers children to attend and pay on of the Myanmar women to teach the kids. She has a group of around 20 children from kindergarten level to grade 4. There are other children at the factory but some cannot attend due to needing to watch their younger siblings while their parents work. They all meet in one small room and are learning to read and write in their own language as well as math. We are praying for how God would use us here to reach another community.

We have a new "member" in our group. Our dear brother Chai and his wife Moe, who just got married this past April, welcomed their first child, a son, just before Christmas! The birth was not an easy one and after being transferred to Chumphon to the hospital there she ended up delivering via cesarean.



Thank you for your support!

We thank you again with so much joy, from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support. This is not just our ministry but when you support us you are partnering with us to advance the proclamation of the gospel around the world. We also take much comfort in knowing that our family is in your prayers.

**"So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom."**

Psalms 90:12