



# Allison Newsletter

April 2008



Enjoying the water fight from the safety of our car

## Chiang Mai Under Siege!

Happy New Year from Thailand! We have for the past few years celebrated the New Year with our Cambodian family in Dallas. This year, we had the joy of sharing the celebration with the Chiang Mai community. Celebrating here turned out to be much more exciting (and wet!) than Texas!

This town turned into a war zone with young and old alike lining the streets. Armed with hoses, buckets, and water guns, these revelers doused cars and motos as they passed by. Many people rode in the backs of pickup trucks retaliating against those on the roadside.

The celebration was so much fun, but we were reminded at a cell group that the festivities present a challenge for Thai Christians as visits to the temples are part of the holiday. We sat in the midst of these young Christians as they discussed how they could honor their family and show their faith in respectful ways.

Join us in praising God for His family here in Chiang Mai who face struggles such as this in their faith often and who joyfully overcome difficulties with the help of their God. They are a light shining more brightly than we can describe among a beautiful people living in darkness.

## Mentoring by Missionaries

Time with the missionaries here in Chiang Mai blesses us with many tools for growing not only in our walk with God but also our preparation for full-time ministry in Cambodia. While most of our time lies in the Payap University ministry with Robert Reagan, God has also blessed us through the Allen family. David and Michelle have recently begun mentoring us one-on-one once a week. We are very thankful for the time they take out of their schedule to listen to our Thailand experiences, advise us in our ministry here and potential issues in

Cambodia, and challenge us in our spiritual walk.

We are so thankful to be able to learn how to minister in Asia from those who are in the midst of such a ministry! The added blessing of their hindsight is invaluable. God is filling our "toolbox" for ministry in Cambodia, and our excitement about, commitment to, and dreams for the Khmer people grow every day. Please pray for God to open the door to His service in the country just a short plane ride from here.

### What's in this issue?

- Celebrating Songkran
- Mentoring
- Lessons Learned
- Kids' Korner

**"Partnering to rebuild the broken foundation of Cambodia on the solid foundation of Christ!"**



**David Allen and Chris following a mentoring session**



**Gifts from the team (above);  
Erika and Branson Reagan  
baptized into Christ!**



## Lessons We're Learning

### 1). Learning how to live overseas is time consuming...and difficult!

We are now two months into our time here, and we've just now gotten our drinking water! We are so thankful for the experience we have had setting up our home in Thailand, but it has been so hard! We thank God for all of the ways we have learned to make a home in Asia. Many decisions we have made here we will repeat in Cambodia. Many others will NEVER be repeated!

### 2). Prayer is the most important activity we can do.

We have made a schedule for our days and set goals for our time here. We try to participate in every activity that we can and to initiate other activities. During our mentoring time with the Allens, however, the value of prayer both for worship, for personal growth,

and for ministry has been stressed. In our humanness we are tempted to "make things happen" and follow a "check list," but the value of our time with God to seek His will, to follow His guidance, and to learn to love Him more far outweighs our plans. We are thankful to again learn this priceless wisdom and to be able to spend time with our Father and then participate in all that He wants us to do.

### 3). Learning the local language is a necessity.

We're convinced! After eating the same meal weeks in a row and feeling utterly helpless to even have basic conversation with others, we are even more certain that our first year in Cambodia needs to be spent learning the language. We are looking forward to the challenge and feel that, after our experience here, we will be more determined to study with gusto.

## A Baby Shower Thai Style

Traditionally, Thais make visits to the hospital to welcome new babies into the world. As a special treat and blessing to our family, our wonderful Thai sisters and missionary wives hosted American-style baby shower for Melanie. We played games, and Michelle Allen even made pecan cookies with delightful pink icing on top. Those cookies disappeared in rapid succession, many being consumed by one pregnant woman craving American sweets!

We played fun, American-style baby shower games in English that were a bit new to our Thai sisters. In their wonderful Thai way, the sisters jumped right in with smiles and laughter. We had a great time despite that fact that during the game to guess how big Casey's stomach was the widths guessed were outrageously big!

The sweet ladies gave our family a generous supply of tiny diapers, baby wipes, a baby bed complete with a cover to keep out bugs, and several other goodies. They even included a "grown up" toy for big sister, Maggie. We are so thankful for the loving and generous fellowship we experience in Thailand daily that, like in Heaven, transcends culture and nationality. Praise God for His diverse family!

## Thank You for Your Monthly Support



**Reminder: Those of you who are helping to support us in Thailand, please send your checks to the following address:**

**Hillcrest Church of Christ**

**P.O. Box 1264**

**Paragould, AR 72451**

**Thank You!**

## Prayer

### Requests

- Praise for Erika and Branson's new lives in Christ
- For the health of baby Melanie
- For opportunities to share Christ's saving message in Thailand
- For our dreams of possibly joining the Cambodia team in the future
- For God to place Cambodia on the heart of a church that can oversee our work

*His Gifts  
for  
His Glory!*



### From Maggie

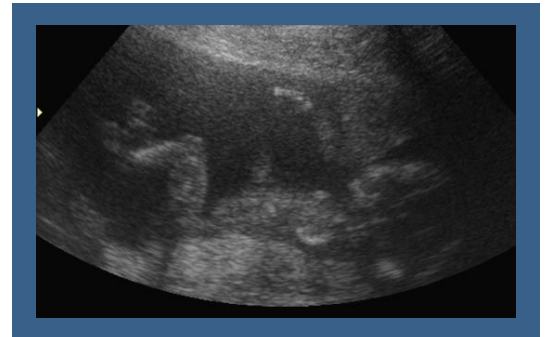
One day we were riding in the car with the windows down because it was SO hot! All of the sudden, someone threw a bucket of water right in the window on me. Then, another one came through Mommy's window and got me all wet. I was scared at first, but then we rolled up the windows and had so much fun watching everyone else get splashed with water. We didn't even have to wash our car that week!

Daddy bought me a new bed that is off the ground, and I stopped getting bed bug bites for a little while. Now they are back! Please pray that the bugs will stop biting me!

### From Melanie

Just a week or two more! I am having so much fun hearing all my friends in Thailand tell me to hurry up and come. I got so many diapers at the baby shower the church had for me. I can't wait to meet all those wonderful people face to face!

## Kids' Korner



**Tentmaker is off to a Great Start in '08!**  
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**100%** of our profits go to support our work in Cambodia!