

Pictures from Thailand Update 2



Hello from Thailand! We are halfway there (OOH livin' on a prayer), and have so much to share with you! Above you will see Rachel and the kids wearing Karen shirts, and Ryan in his daily hospital garb.



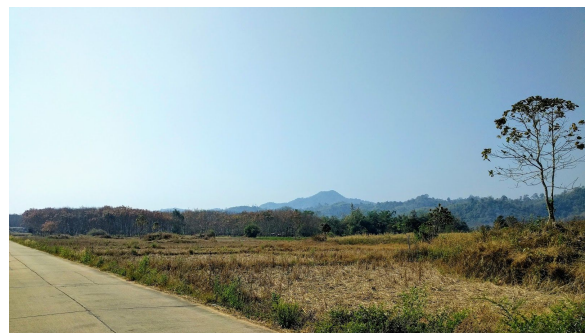
Huay Malai market



The Huay Malai village market is on Thursday mornings. Rachel goes early to get our food for the entire week. The other missionary wives have helped us get acquainted with which vendors to buy from for the best quality and price.



The village is located in dense green mountainous terrain

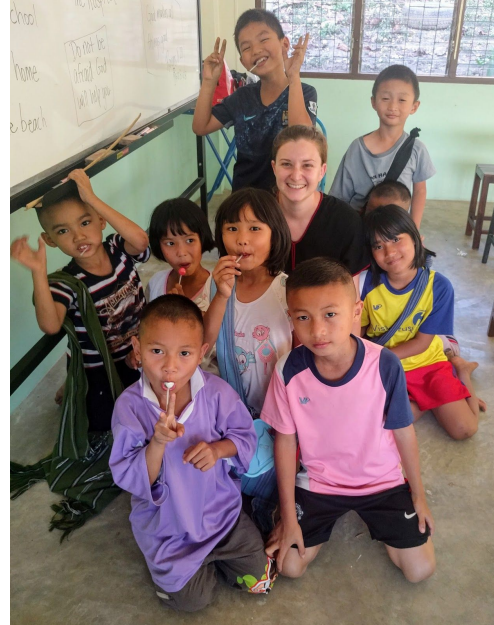




Ryan and Daniel under a banana tree!



Rachel has been assisting the trainees with teaching school-age children from the village English 4 days per week. Each lesson focuses on grammar, English vocabulary, a Bible story, and a memory verse. The Lord has been faithful to provide time to prep, and insight on which Bible stories & verses to teach.



The children earn lollipops for saying their Bible verses from memory



The kids have so much fun playing games to practice their English!



Rachel has been invited to assist full-time missionary, Michelle, and her trainees with their English lessons on Friday mornings.



The trainees learn sustainable skills that they will take back to their villages when they graduate. One of their current projects is to build a hen house out of bamboo.



We were invited to take part in preparing and eating a traditional Karen meal with the trainees. They slaughtered a pig that day to prep for a large fellowship meal. Ryan & Abigail helped cut banana stalk, which is used in curry with pork over rice.



Last week, Rachel started meeting with the trainees in small groups at our apartment each afternoon. There are 4 groups. Each group comes twice a week to work on pronunciation, conversational English skills, and listening comprehension. The trainees include a mix of Christians who are truly following the Lord, individuals who are Christian in culture only, and Buddhists. In addition, the students come from several ethnic groups including Karen, Burmese, and Thai. We pray that the Lord will continue to allow Rachel to build relationships with these young people in order to plant seeds of faith, and encourage those who have already made commitments of faith in Jesus.



While Rachel is teaching at the training center, Abigail plays with the children, listens to the lesson, and gets hands on experience with local farm animals! Tu Lu Wah (seen in top picture) runs the children's home where the above girls live. These girls are primarily Karen refugees who come from difficult situations that have left them without a home. The children's home has taken them in to provide education, food, and shelter for them. There are currently 25 girls living in the home.



There are multiple children's homes in Huay Malai. Some house children for their parents so that they can attend school. We were invited to celebrate a birthday with the children's home that is next door to our apartment!



Ryan has been able to provide medical care alongside the missionary doctors at Kwai River Christian Hospital with the use of on site translators. He is gaining valuable experience in primary care, surgical intervention, and providing medicine in rural conditions.



Ryan performing a newborn exam



Ryan assisting in the operating room with full-time missionary Dr. Jen



Ryan has been able to assist with 3 c-section deliveries so far



Ryan performing a lumbar puncture (above). Ryan has also been able to learn how to provide spinal anesthesia for surgical procedures. There is no anesthesiologist at Kwai River Christian Hospital. So, surgeries that can be done on-site are done under spinal anesthesia or local anesthesia only.



During our down-time, we have been able to borrow bicycles to see the village and surrounding area. Above, you will see a common home made of bamboo. Many of the houses are raised on bamboo stilts like this one to avoid flooding during rainy season, and to keep wildlife out.



Neighboring village Bon Mai



We have taken a lot of different kinds of transportation in Thailand! Here we are in a truck-taxi called a Songthaew on our way to Kanchanaburi



This week we are enjoying a time of rest and reflection. We will be spending time as a family, focusing on investing into Abigail and Daniel. (Abigail had french fries for the first time in 5 weeks! She was one happy girl!) But most of all we will be spending time in God's word and in prayer. We are asking the Lord to provide us with understanding about His will for the remainder of our trip and vision for the future.

Prayer Requests:

- Please pray for perseverance in being faithful to what the Lord has called us to in Huay Malai for the next month
- Pray for the Lord to reveal His will for our future involvement with the Karen people and potential for long-term missions
- Pray that our service next month would be valuable, bring glory to the Lord, and would be a blessing to the people of Huay Malai & Three Pagodas Pass
- Pray for the lost, displaced, and needy people we have the opportunity to love & serve! Please pray for their salvation!