

## *Pictures from Thailand/Myanmar Update 4*



Prior to going to Myanmar, we spent one day in Kanchanaburi, Thailand to rest as a family. The Lord answered our many prayers and relieved Abigail from having any more night terrors. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness, and thank you for praying!



After driving to Bangkok, flying to Yangon, and driving 4 hours we arrived in Kyaukki,

Myanmar. There is a large Karen Baptist church in the center of the village, as well as several large Buddhist temples within and surrounding the village.



We were quickly introduced to the Earth Mission Asia team and physician assistant students who are taking classes in Kyaukki. The team is also preparing the medical clinic to launch later this month. Ryan was asked to assist with teaching one of the classes on doing a patient's physical exam.





privilege for us to see what goes into getting a medical facility up and running in such rural conditions!



During the students' down time they asked Ryan and I to practice conversational English with them.



This is the current clinic and classroom location. Earth Mission Asia hopes to secure land near the village to begin building a fully equipped hospital for the Karen people in the near future.



We stayed in an abandoned seminary dormitory that is currently being used as guest housing.



The clinic is ready to start seeing patients as soon as the remainder of the medical team arrives & gets settled. It was a







Bathing in Kyaukki was a refreshing cold bucket of water over your head! This was actually very helpful to do throughout the day to help us beat the extreme heat! Do you see our little frog friend on the towel rack?



Daniel and Abigail had fun sleeping in their mosquito net "tents"



Villagers walking with goods balanced on their heads & chanting



A river bed runs through the village. Many villagers have built bamboo bridges across the river to access the main walking road





Abi feeding a hen and her chicks



A village woman in traditional clothing & hat fixing her fence



The Karen traditionally eat with their hands. Ryan was excited to try eating like a local!



Local woman feeding her pigs





Participating in the Karen worship service at the church in Kyaukki was amazing! The church's choir sang beautifully. Our family made such a stir in the community, that the pastors went out of their way to translate a summary of the message in English. We were honored and humbled by their willingness to serve us in this way.

Spending time in Kyaukki gave us experience and exposure to the needs of the Karen people in their native country. The stories the students shared with us about their nation were eye opening, sobering, and inspiring. Seeing the medical, physical, and spiritual needs of the area first-hand is something many people do not have the opportunity to do. Although this portion of our trip was without doubt the most difficult, the Lord also used it to reveal portions of His will and vision for our future.



At the end of our time in Myanmar, we were all looking forward to our visit to Earth Mission Asia headquarters in Chiang Mai, Thailand.



We were greeted by the Earth Mission Asia team and given a tour of their office. We met with several of their full time missionary staff, and the first year students who are working on computer skills, English skills, and medical knowledge. Each staff member spent intentional time sharing their role in the over-arching vision of the Earth Mission Asia projects.





The Earth Mission Asia engineering director spent time showing us plans for the hospital, sharing his heart for the Karen people, and showing us footage of previous projects in Karen State.



Our travel day heading back to the USA was very long, but the kids did great, we made all of our flight connections, and we got home with all of our baggage! We even had an empty seat next to us on the airplane and a baby bassinet for Daniel to sleep in! Praise the Lord!



After making it through the first few days of jet lag, we have had some time to process and pray about our trip. It is so difficult to put into words everything the Lord showed us, how He used us, how He shaped our family, & how He drew us closer together and closer to Him.

We now have seven years of commitments to Ryan's residency program and military service in front of us. In spite of this extended timeline, we feel that the Lord used our experience in Thailand/Myanmar to draw our hearts toward long-term medical missions.

We plan to take steps toward mission work without fully understanding what the future holds at this point. Proverbs 16:9 says, "A man's heart plans his ways but the Lord guides his steps." With this in mind, we plan to fully embrace a missional life of serving our community, openly sharing the gospel, loving others in the name of Jesus, raising our children to know & understand how to have a relationship with Christ and how to live a life of service, continue participating in



and exposing our family to short term missions trips when opportunities arise, hosting missionaries in our home as much as possible, and prayerfully asking the Lord to shape our family in the direction He wants us to go--whether that be back to Thailand, or to any other corner of the globe.

Much Love,  
Ryan, Rachel, Abigail & Daniel

In Matthew 28:19, the Lord commands us as believers to “go and make disciples of all nations.” For the next seven years at least, the Lord has clearly asked us to invest into making disciples within the medical and military community in the U.S. We trust that He will guide us to go and make disciples in the far reaches of the world in His timing. Until then, we will continue to learn how to walk by faith, pursue Christ, and “live out a life worthy of the calling we have received” (Ephesians 4:1).

Thank you for your faithful prayer support, encouragement, financial support, friendship, and love! We appreciate each one of you and hope that we have opportunities to share more about our experiences in person! We hope that being a part of this journey with us from home has inspired you to greater steps of faith in your own life!

