

Thailand

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CHIANG MAI CHURCH PLANTING TEAM

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1ST QUARTER 2018

The More We Know, The More We Love



Retreat coordinator, Jan Reagan. Relaxing together and enjoying the cool mountain weather during a break.

Michelle Allen, Jan Reagan & Pat Todd enjoying being together at the retreat.



Jan Reagan said, "The retreat helped us learn more about ourselves and the personality types of our friends, which helps us know how to treat them better. This year's women's retreat was blessed by

Diane Tehan teaching about Enneagram, a typology of nine interconnected personality types. The ladies smiled and laughed as they learned about each other's personality types. - Robert Reagan

Scrabble - Bringing Members Together



Scrabble is building both relationships and English vocabulary at Payap Christian Zone. Most evenings several members gather for a game or two and enjoy fellowship and a meal together. Tiffani Slaten, our new 5-month apprentice, is already fitting in to the Scrabble culture at PCZ. - Robert Reagan



12 Baptisms in 2017

in the Chiang Mai Church Plantings

Praise God that these 12 people gave their lives to Christ in 2017. These are members of these

church plantings: 1994-Nakorn Ping Church of Christ, 2000-Cheung Doi Church of Christ, 2004-Payap

Christian Zone Church of Christ, and 2015-Chaiyo Church of Christ. Please pray for them by name.



OmYim
Jan. 22



Salmon
Jan. 22



Win
Feb. 19



Anya
Feb. 26



Jan
Mar. 5



Mote
Mar. 19



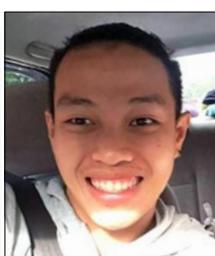
Yang
Mar. 19



Tae
Apr. 27



Dtok
Apr. 30



Jumbo
May 7



Ploi
July 4



Fai
Oct. 13



Fara Binkley pretty in pink.

Valentine's Pink Party

Everyone wore pink at this year's Valentine's party. We kept costs low by using old wedding decorations and doing a potluck.

We had games, songs, dances and seven guests. Pat wore herself out laughing. - Sean Todd



Go Kuh, Ee & Chogun sporting their pink shirts. We've been doing Valentine's outreach parties since 2001.

The Chiang Mai Church-Planting Team:

"Building Communities to Reach a City - Reaching a City to Change a Nation."



Team Website:

[The Chiang Mai Church Planting Team](#)

Reaching Out to Struggling Girl and Her Family

We met Yolada one Sunday morning when her family visited the Chaiyo Church. She was tall for her age, 11, and had the most beautiful smile with dimples. Her family came to church periodically, but then stopped and we didn't see them for about a year.

The next time I saw Yolada, I was shocked. She was just skin and bones. Her smile was gone and her eyes sunken in. Her parents said that she was sick and in constant pain, but the doctors could not find anything after months of testing. Yolada confessed to one of the young girls at church that she wanted to kill herself because she saw no end to the pain.

The Chaiyo church



David and Michelle surround Yolada with their love.

sprang into action. One member made appointments for her at a better hospital, where she was quickly admitted.

Yolada was soon diagnosed with the autoimmune disease, Lupus. She was started on a cocktail of drugs to help her body

fight the disease. She began to improve both physically and emotionally.

Church members visited her in the hospital, and then later at home. The church threw a baby shower for Yolada's mother, who was pregnant with her 4th child. Yolada decided that

she wanted to become a Christian. Through the actions of the body of Christ, she realized that God is real and loves her!

The church has continued to reach out to the family. One member took Yolada to swim lessons after a psychiatrist recommended exercise.

Other members searched and found a new apartment that was nicer and cheaper than their old one bedroom and helped them move in. We had a house and baby blessing the week after they moved in.

Her father said they have never been loved so much. How beautiful it is to see the family of God take care of one another!

- David Allen

David, Michelle, Brianna & Brielle Allen



At Christmas this year, Brianna brought the turkey. Literally... she brought the frozen turkey to Chiang Mai in her suitcase! Even with a missed flight, both Brianna and the turkey arrived just fine. David was the Christmas cook, and after searching allrecipes.com and watching some tutorials, he cooked the most delicious and moist turkey! It was great having the girls home for the holidays. Coffeeshops, waterfalls, hikes, short overnight trips, games, and lots of yummy food. Since we ate so much, and usually gain weight on furlough, we started a new diet right after the girls left. We lost around 10 lbs each within a couple of weeks,

then plateaued. Brianna and Brielle loved going on weeklong trips with the AFC to serve in children's homes. Being empty nesters has a new bonus for us. Since we don't need to wait for school breaks, our furlough no longer needs to be relegated to the hot Texas summers, which immediately follows the most hot and polluted time of the year in Chiang Mai. We hope to see many of you this March - April! We'll take bluebonnets over air pollution any day! Brianna ordered her Aggie ring, an important Aggie tradition for seniors. Time is flying!



Spending time at a waterfall during the holiday break.



David before starting his diet



Loving our family time together .



Bonding with Brianna over coffee and cards.



Which one is the turkey?

When Success is Small

My time with Urban Light has given me a greater appreciation of the complexity of sexual exploitation and poverty.

Many of these boys are simply trying to survive - to put food in their stomachs, or send money back home, or flee abusive family situations.

Cuts and scrapes become big problems when left untreated, so UL has a doctor on staff to take care of these boys living on the streets. HIV and Tuberculosis are common, and UL does its best to make sure life-saving meds are taken on time.



Ryan helps translate for Dr. Matilda.

Drug and alcohol use is also rampant. We recently had a workshop on the

dangers of sniffing glue, but as one young man pointed out, "How can

you refuse if all your friends are doing it?" They need love and community and so much more.

UL provides some of this as well. Whether it's playing soccer, ping-pong or games of UNO together, the UL center is a place of warmth and care for them.

The hope is that they grow from simply surviving to actually living. One boy started GED courses recently; another has held a job for 4 weeks now; another with

HIV got back on meds and has kept his weight up. Small steps but victories nonetheless. - Ryan Binkley

Ryan, Ning, Lane, Knox & Fara Binkley



This Christmas was extra special since Ryan's parents visited for the first time in 3 years and the first time for Christmas since we moved to Thailand. We didn't do any touristy things but just enjoyed being lazy at home for 2 weeks, eating whatever my mom baked and playing cards games with the kids. It was great. Our family's biggest Christmas gift didn't arrive until February 1st - when we moved into our new house we have been building! After over 9 months of stressing over details like tile color and door knob styles, we finally got to move in to our first home we've owned. We really feel grateful to God for this blessing. There are still

boxes everywhere and we don't feel settled yet, but it does feel good to own a house. Aside from that, Lane finished up his soccer season and even scored a goal in their lone win of the tournament. Ning chaperoned Lane's field trip to the hill tribes museum, while Knox took a trip to the train station the same day. Knox also started piano lessons this year. Ning's parents have been a great help during our move, and Fara has enjoyed the extra attention from them as a result. Ryan enjoyed writing and presenting a paper on Thai ritual at a conference in January.



Lane and Knox open a gift from Highland COC.



Ning and Fara lead the offering time at church.



Lane as MLK for 3rd grade wax museum.



Fara in pink at church Valentine's Party.



"Pass the ball to me - I'm open!"



First Christmas together in Thailand.

Blessed by 30+ Years of Friendship With Phil Ware

When I was a university student at ACU in the mid 1980s, Phil Ware became the preacher at my home church, Westover Hills Church of Christ in Austin.

In 1984 when Westover sent me to Thailand to be an apprentice missionary, Phil exhorted me to "Go convert as many as possible!"

When Jan and I got married in 1990 and moved to Austin, Phil taught a class I took at the Institute for Christian Studies and regularly gave Jan and me words of encouragement about our plans to return to Thailand to be full-time missionaries.

After our team arrived in Chiang Mai in 1994, Phil and his son, Zach, came in 1995 on a two-week youth & parent mission trip to work with our team.



Phil Ware preaches before a combined assembly of more than 100 members in the Chiang Mai churches of Christ.

Every furlough back in Austin, Phil would ask us about our work and about the members of our churches and our teammates. It felt good that the preacher of our supporting church knew our ministry well.

Phil came back to Chiang Mai again in 2010 with a Let's Start Talking team. Phil's passion for telling people about the Good News of Jesus Christ was inspiring. He fought for the souls of some of

his LST students for more than four years (via weekly Skype sessions) before baptizing them into Christ in our baptistry here at the Payap Christian Zone church in Chiang Mai.

Phil has visited here regularly since 2010 following up on those students and encouraging Jan and me at the same time.

In January Phil stopped through Chiang Mai to visit us on his way to China for Heartlight.org.

Since he stayed in our home, we had lots of good fellowship and of course, while in Thailand - lots of good Thai food together.

Jan and I feel so honored to have Phil (so talented and busy) come spend time with us.

- Robert Reagan

Robert, Jan, Erika & Branson Reagan

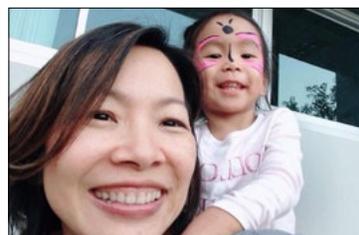


We are excited for Erika and Tyler as they are adjusting to life in cold Minnesota. I think the adjustment has been pretty easy for the dog they brought back from South Africa named Yeesha, a Siberian Husky. Yeesha loves taking naps in the snow. She's in her element and loving it. Erika and Tyler are currently living in Tyler's parent's house and they have both started new jobs. Branson recently flew to Ohio to check out a university in hopes of studying audiology in a graduate/doctorate program. He also went on a retreat for ACU and Texas A&M students at a Thai-Laotian church in Saginaw, TX. It was great that he was reunited with Brianna Allen and

Yam Saowatarnpong, who both grew up in Chiang Mai. Branson also taught a class at the retreat. Since Jan volunteers a lot at Grace International School, they rewarded her with a gift certificate (for 2) to a fancy lobster and seafood buffet at the Shangri-La Hotel. Yes, it was delicious! Jan also continues to volunteer twice a week at a girl's juvenile detention center. I have a new 5-month apprentice from Texas A&M named Tiffani Slaten. She helped me teach more than 40 lessons during Friendship Week to 14 students from the Karen ethnic people group.



Celebrating Valentine's Day.



Jan taking care of little Elize.



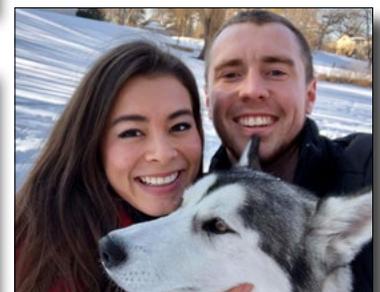
Reunion in Saginaw (Ft. Worth) for Branson, Brianna & Yam.



Jan enjoying lobster at a special seafood buffet dinner.



Branson teaching at a weekend retreat at the Saginaw church.



Erika & Tyler introducing Yeesha to the snow in Minnesota.

Honor Everyone

1 Peter 2:17 commands us to "honor everyone." Honor is how love is spelled out in this culture. Honor involves greeting people with the right gestures, pronouns, eye contact, tone of voice, smile and respect particles.

For Yongyoot a simple greeting was a turning point in his life. "I was a smelly drunk, but they welcomed me and remembered my name!" He became a Christian a few months later. It is usually easy to communicate respect, but it's also easy to communicate disrespect.

Saying nothing often says something mean. It is never safe to turn off your good manners. Listening: I still remember when I gently rebuked a sister in Christ, and her response was, "Well,



The Cheung Doi church welcomed all to a meal celebrating Christ's resurrection.

David understands me." This happened during David's first year of language training.

He didn't have a clue what she was talking about, but he gave her his time and compassionate eye contact, and that communicated

to her great respect, acceptance, and even understanding. Feasting together is a tangible expression of God's acceptance. So when Peter no longer ate with the Gentile Christians, Paul said he was violating the truth of the gospel. Peter's

sociology communicated false theology.

My knowledge about honor is like the tail of the toad, but it seems to me that there is a respectful and disrespectful way to do virtually everything here: walk, sit, stand, dress, laugh, yawn and violate traffic laws.

To further complicate matters, every subculture within Thailand is a bit different. Daily we try to navigate a minefield of sensitive egos. As outsiders we are often at a disadvantage not knowing all the social cues. As Christians we are at an advantage because we can show respect from the heart, knowing that each person we meet is created in God's image. - Sean Todd

Sean, Pat, Asia & Benjamin Todd



We praise God that Pat has been able to bring her blood sugar down to normal levels. She has also lost ten pounds. I continue to enjoy reading books and teaching classes. Things in the church are going great or lousy depending on my focus. Each person and congregation has a variety of problems. Each week seems to reveal new flaws, or at least flaws I didn't know about until that week. And yet this same bunch of mundane, flawed individuals can also be so, so beautiful and even heroic. They are both sinful and Spirit-filled. The Spirit didn't clean house before moving in, at least not as much as you would think. Conversion and sancti-

fication are usually quite slow, incremental and undramatic. God builds His temple bit by bit with broken tools and damaged materials. They aren't exactly the first-round draft picks in terms of moral performance or even people skills. I frequently judge them, especially the guys I don't pray for very much. But then if I hear someone else judging them, I immediately dislike that person. I myself am a broken tool. I'm part of what's wrong with the church. Nevertheless, I'd much rather be a part of God's rather dysfunctional family than alone.



Party for Butter who recently went to study at South Pacific Bible College in New Zealand.



Ice was baptized by his friend and fellow Chelsea soccer club fan, Pick.



The Cheung Doi Church celebrated with Dtan who finished her masters degree.



Several Cheung Doi members met to plan out activities for 2018.



Wishing all our friends and family a Happy, Healthy, Holy 2018.



Pat & I do couples equipping with Koji & Ice on Fridays.