

# Thailand

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CHIANG MAI CHURCH PLANTING TEAM

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## SUMMER INTERNS



### Kidding Around

Summer interns, Sam Jones and Tripp Wright, along with Thai brothers, Goku and Messi, bringing smiles to the kids at Gethsemane Children's Home.



A crash course for Intern Bonding Day.



Macy Young teaching ABC's in the mountains.

Since starting the Chiang Mai Internship in 1997, we've had 316 interns and apprentices!

This year we have 17 interns from Thailand, the USA and the UK.

We've taught three English camps in mountain villages in Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai.

The girls have helped

Jan at a girl's juvenile detention center. Each week we visit children's homes and give testimonies in cell group.

In the mornings we study about spiritual disciplines and friendship evangelism.

I praise God for this awesome group of interns. - **Robert Reagan**



Robert Reagan and the five Thai summer interns.



Tiffani  
Texas A&M



Gam  
Thailand



Mild  
Thailand



Mook  
Thailand



Mine  
Thailand



Nothai  
Thailand



Sanober  
U.K.



Bayley  
OCU



Calli  
OCU



Avory  
ACU



Macy  
ACU



Maddie  
ACU



Molly  
ACU



Sam  
ACU



Ashley  
ACU



Tripp  
ACU



Jan  
ACU

# AGGIES FOR CHRIST IN THAILAND - 2018

The Aggies for Christ are well-known for their mission-minded students. 24 came to serve three weeks with our churches in Chiang Mai and nearby hill tribes.

Their enthusiasm was infectious and their love for people opened doors.

God worked both in and through this group for kingdom change.

One special treat! Both Brianna and Brielle were part of this trip and served in valuable roles through translation and bridge building. - **David Allen**



Facepainting was a hit with students at TMK School.



Lifting up Spiderman!



Sore shoulders? Worth it!



"Look - I'm taller!"



Brian Miller, campus minister at A&M COC.



Brielle connected well with the teenage girls.

## Dr. Sid Allen - A Life Well-Lived



Dr. Sid Allen

Several months have gone by since the passing of my father, Sid Allen.

Even though I have had plenty of time to reflect on his life, I still have a hard time finding just the right words to summarize the impact that one life had on so many.

As I was going through my father's things, I found a small note that he had written down for himself, "Life is like a game of tennis. The one who serves well seldom loses."

Dad, you have served well and have won a great reward! That reward is not

only in heaven for you, but it is also here on this earth. It is the reward of the many hurting people you have helped, the many who now follow Jesus, and it is in your children, who have learned from you and now follow in your footsteps.

- **David Allen**

### 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](#)

# Not All Social Media is Evil - Chaiyo Using it for Good

There is no scarcity in the number of warnings of the evil attached to social media. We frequently hear of alarming stories or debilitating addictions associated with social media.

But I don't think social media is inherently evil; its good or bad uses depend upon the character of the one using it. For the Chaiyo church, social media is a valuable tool for contributing to a healthy body life.

Members are checking on each other daily, finding out who has needs and then taking care of each other. Whenever someone is sick, the other members pray for them and visit them.

One young mother was admitted to the hospital recently from complications after child birth. Im-



Social media—distractions or ministry opportunities?

mediately the word got out through social media and members responded.

Her hospital room number was posted, and many Christians visited and encouraged her husband. Many prayed for God to heal and watch over our sister. When this

mother was healed and released from the hospital, she expressed her thankfulness for the overwhelming response of love and concern from the church.

Social media has also helped us to organize events more frequently & efficiently. If an unforeseen

problem comes up, plans can be adjusted quickly.

There is constant encouragement in the daily chats; one member even posts a daily devotional.

The bible teaches us that the best church happens not in a short 2-hour meeting once a week, but in the daily fellowship of the Christian community as they practice the "one another" passages of scripture.

I know that this body of first-generation believers has a long way to go in learning more bible and growing in the knowledge of God.

But one thing they have right is a caring community...and social media is helping them achieve this!  
- David Allen

## David, Michelle, Brianna & Brielle Allen



God's timing is perfect. We planned this past furlough for the Spring to avoid the hot, polluted season in Chiang Mai. We hoped for good family time in the midst of many health struggles. How blessed we were with amazing family time. Highlights: celebrating Brielle's birthday in snow-covered mountains in Colorado, praying and singing hymns at David's father's bedside as he passed from this world to Jesus' side, placing Aggie gold on Brianna's finger at A&M, sharing stories and laughter with family and friends at Sid's memorial service. We had far too little time with our dear friends and supporters

this trip. Once back in CM, hosting the AFC was both exhausting and wonderful. We especially loved seeing our Chaiyo church with our Aggies... Thai kids playing together with our Ags in the creek and at a waterfall, conversations over a hot pot meal, praising God and sharing testimonies in both Thai and English around the campfire. How sweet the fellowship! After being in Thailand with the AFC, Brielle is working as a counselor at Camp Deer Run, while Brianna is working part time and studying chemistry.



"What are your idols?" A devo before visiting a Buddhist temple.



Bob, David, and TMK teacher Brandon enjoy the activities.



Zip-a-dee-doo-dah...



Brianna's Aggie senior ring day!



Can you tell that we're riding an elephant?



Laura, Jenetta, and David acting "normal" on a family walk.

# New Chiang Mai Trend: Board Games

With a culture already saturated with technology, the newest entertainment trend in Chiang Mai is to take a step back to simpler times. Instead of joining friends online at an internet café, now hipsters gather to play games at a board game café.

At least 2 of these cafés have opened in Chiang Mai recently, and our church has already jumped on the boardgaming bandwagon. I recently joined a group from our church to play at Time to Table.

The shelves in the café are filled with dozens of



Oan gets excited during a board game with Ryan Binkley.

different board games from which to choose, and you pay to play by the hour.

While some of the classics like Risk and Monopoly are there, most are games only

true board game geeks would know.

Want to compete to plant and sell the most peppers in the garden? Play 'Scoville.' Want to be a monster and take over the city? Play 'King of Tokyo.' No matter the choice, the games serve to bring Chiang Mai friends together for fun, laughter and friendly competition.

I'm not sure how long this trend will last, but I hope it continues to get our church out from in

front of our screens and in to a café, sitting next to each other around a table.

- Ryan Binkley

## Ryan, Ning, Lane, Knox & Fara Binkley



students who were on a trip to serve with Chiang Mai churches and they were a blessing for our whole family. During the Songgrahn holidays, we travelled to Phayao to visit friends we've missed since we moved away 2 years ago. A mini-vacation at a local resort gave us some quality family-time in April. Ryan brushed up on his baking skills from the days running a pizza restaurant to teach the boys at Urban Light how to make pizza in May. Ning recently got braces for her teeth and, despite the initial pain of pulling 4 teeth, is glad to have them straightened.

In March, we invited the church, family and our neighbors over for a house blessing ceremony, complete with an anointing of our front door. Knox finished up Thai preschool in March and will enter 1st grade at Grace in the fall. Lane won an award at school for memorizing his weekly Bible verses. Fara enjoys playing with the next door neighbor, Marlin, and her Thai is improving as a result. Knox and Ryan took a father/son trip to Bangkok to visit Kidzania and had a blast "working" in the kid-sized city. Lane completed his first season of basketball last semester and enjoyed learning a new sport. We also hosted two Japanese



Ning and our friend Na in Phayao.



Goodbye to our Japanese friends at the airport.



Officer Knox fights crime at Kidzania.



Fara's Peppa Pig Birthday Party.



Knox's piano concert.



Fara and Marlin enjoy a snack together.

# Tiffany, A Self-Starter Who Blessed Many

Tiffani Slaten graduated from Texas A&M in Dec. 2017 and decided to step out in faith to serve in Chiang Mai from Feb. to June 2018 before starting graduate school.

When I told her that Jan and I would be back in the US on furlough for two of her five months, she said she felt she could keep herself busy with lots of outreach activities and that she would be okay without us for those two months.

Well, Tiffani lived up to her word. Upon arrival she quickly bonded with the young Thai people at church, hanging out with them every day.

Each Tuesday and Thursday morning she went with my wife, Jan, to a juvenile detention center to reach out to teenage girls.



Tiffani Slaten and Robert Reagan at a tea plantation.

She found out about a children's home that needed help and began to volunteer there every week.

By the time Jan and I left for furlough in the States,

I felt confident that Tiffani would be fine without us.

Each Tuesday a friend took her to the juvenile detention center and later dropped her off at the

children's home where she took care of kids until Thursday when she would go back to the juvenile detention center.

The rest of the week she filled her time meeting up with members of our church, teaching English and working on a huge project for me.

Tiffani helped me create questions for chapters 26-56 in the Friendship Bible Study series. The last couple of weeks she was here, we worked to edit the questions and get it formatted.

These questions will bless many many student for years to come. Tiffani is now back in the US in graduate school. We love and miss you Tiffani.

**- Robert & Jan Reagan**

## Robert, Jan, Erika & Branson Reagan



We are thankful to God for our good friends, Mark and Sharon Davies, who invited us to join them on a cruise in the Gulf of Mexico for 5 days in May. We had a great time relaxing and eating entirely too much. We are proud of Branson who graduated from ACU in May. After his graduation we all flew to Minneapolis to be with Erika and Tyler. Tyler's parents are awesome and we always enjoy spending time with them. Branson is now back in Chiang Mai for the summer break. He has helped me a lot by driving interns to activities, English camps and weekend camping trips. He will move to Akron, Ohio, in August to begin a four-year doc-

torate program in audiology at Kent State. Erika and Tyler have moved into a new apartment and always enjoy time outdoors with Yeesha, their beautiful Siberian Husky. I have enjoyed the 17 interns God has given us this summer. As always, I know it will be so lonely around the Zone when these lively interns go back home. Praise God that He continues to send us such high quality young people. We are looking forward to the Asia Mission Forum in Bangkok this year. It's always a great time of catching up with co-workers here in Asia.



Tyler, Erika and Yeesha enjoy a beautiful afternoon together.



Like father—like son. Same, Same—But Different!



28th anniversary on July 4.



Enjoying Bengali curry at the Scott's in Minnesota.



Jan is like a grandmother to Alise. Jan's brother Sam is behind her.



Branson's ACU buddies visit him in Chiang Mai for a few days.

# A Better Understanding of Guilt & Shame

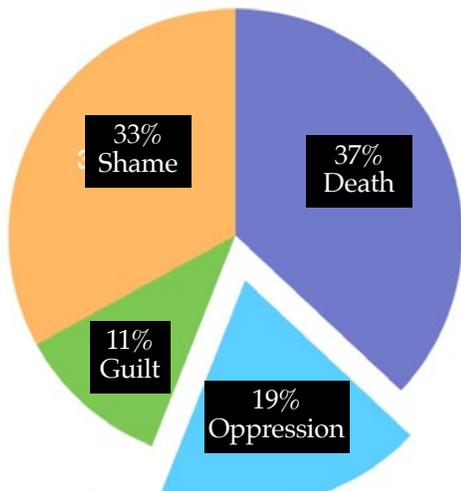
What does salvation mean in the Psalms? The psalmists want to be saved from D.O.G.S.: Death, Oppression, Guilt, and Shame.

In a few verses they also ask to be set free from the evil of their own hearts, but the number of these verses is small compared to the four big DOGS.

The psalmists focus more on issues of food, safety, oppression and death, than we do who live in relative wealth and safety. Unlike American believers, they speak more about the renewal of honor than the removal of guilt.

We Westerners need to study honor and shame in order to better understand God's word, to better communicate God's word to other cultures, and to better appreciate what God has done, is doing, and will do for us.

**Saved from D.O.G.S.**



In the Psalms the wicked are generally punished with death and dishonor, while the faithful are rewarded with provision, protection, prestige, and God's presence.

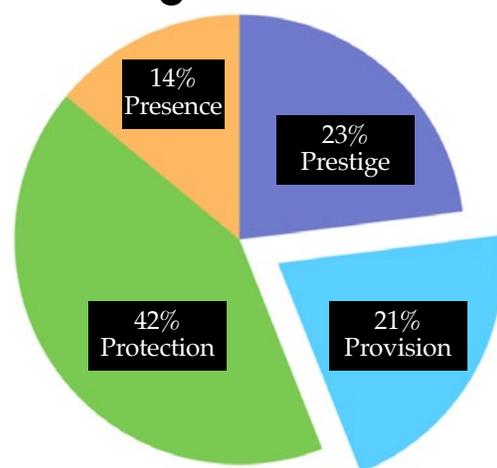
For instance, in the familiar 23rd Psalm David says, "Yahweh is my shepherd, I lack nothing [provision]..."

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, [protection] for you are with me [presence]...

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil [prestige] ... I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever [presence]."

God's presence usually includes all the other blessings, but it is more than the sum of them. May we seek God's presence more than God's presents. - Sean Todd

**Blessings for the Faithful**



## Sean, Pat, Asia & Benjamin Todd



**AWESOME FURLOUGH!** Eleanor Vale Eidson came out to meet us on April 19th. Pat took off two months from her job without pay in order for us to be there for the birth. All the relatives packed the hospital waiting room. The smell of having milk spit up on me carried my mind back more than two decades to times feeding and burping Asia and Ben. Tyler and Asia have rearranged their lives successfully, even though they sometimes feel overwhelmed. Ben and Hayley are happy about their move to Kansas City. We got to help them unload. While in the States with our daughter and my parents, Pat cooked a lot. I read, wrote, and drove to

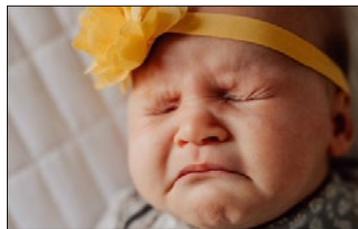
the grocery store. Pat and I connected with the church more than ever through classes, home groups, staff meetings and our "eating ministry." Amazingly, I didn't gain much weight, and Pat has lost 20 pounds and kept her blood sugar down. We even got the rare treat of a little snow before the pounding summer heat and the hay fever that makes Pat miserable. We immensely enjoyed our time with all our church and family there, and now we are reconnecting with our church and family back here. We are grateful and blessed, and we aim to be a blessing to others.



Welcome to the world, Ellie. You are loved.



Four generations: This photo includes Great Grandpa Ted.



Ellie is not happy about something, but she is still cute.



Here is Ellie's first smile for Grandpa Sean.



Tyler and all of us are rejoicing over Eleanor Vale Eidson.



Ellie cuddled up to Uncle Ben and melted his heart.