

Thailand

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CHIANG MAI CHURCH PLANTING TEAM

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 1

1ST QUARTER 2019

Baptisms in the CM Churches

Join us in asking God to increase the harvest in Chiang Mai in 2019.



Yolada
Jan. 14, 2018



Ice
Jan. 28, 2018



Cream
Aug. 12, 2018



Geng
Aug. 12, 2018



Weem
Aug. 12, 2018



Zag
Sept. 30, 2018



Bank
Oct. 28, 2018



Chiang Mai Team at a retreat in Jan. 2019.

Turning Vision into Action

Each January, the Cheung Doi church reviews the previous year and plans for the upcoming year. This process allows our church to reflect critically on our vision statement.

Our vision includes six different areas in which our church aims to live out its faith. We spent three Sunday afternoons to discuss our vision implementation for 2019.

Gade, a veteran church member, took the lead to ensure each topic was given due attention.

Our discussion about "serving together" focused on member participation in the Sun-

ร่วมมือรับใช้
ให้เกียรติเหล่าพี่น้อง
เพียรอบรมสั่งสอนรุ่นต่อไป
ตามพระคริสต์
ช่วยกายจิตประชไทย
หมู่ประชุมสร้างไว้ทั่วแผ่นดิน

Serving Together
Honoring All Christians
Training Children
Following Christ
Helping the Poor
Planting Churches

day morning assembly.

What should our sermon topics be and why? Talking about "training the next generation" gave opportunity for people to share what they wanted our weekly cell groups to focus on. We also were able to find out which members needed prayer partners.

Have we been doing enough "holistic ministry"? The church put specific activities on the calendar to ensure we do.

These meetings are invaluable training opportunities that allow everyone to learn what it means to live out our faith as a community.

- Ryan Binkley

Womens' Retreat: "All Seasons in Christ"

This year's women's retreat focused on sharing about personal ex-

periences in the different seasons of life. This retreat was special for

Michelle Allen—her last retreat before she and David leave in May.



A great group and a fun, relaxing retreat for the women in the Chiang Mai churches.



Michelle sharing a thought.



Pat and Jan enjoying a good laugh together.



Praying over Michelle during the retreat.



Ning participating in discussion.

Being the Answer to Our Prayers

Cheung Doi visited McKean hospital on a recent Sunday to encourage and bless the residents there. McKean was started as a care center for leprosy patients. As the only center of its kind in Thailand, patients come from all across the

country. We took some gifts, but our main blessing was engaging the patients in conversation. We prayed that morning for God's kingdom to come on earth, and our service was an effort to be an answer to that prayer.

- Ryan Binkley



Khao and Dtan extend a loving touch to these elderly ladies.



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](#)

Beloved Professor Chalit Faces Ultimate Test

We almost lost the oldest member of our church recently. Grandfather Chalit is a retired professor from Chiang Mai University.

His daughter, Nam Pheung, is from the first generation of Christians to come from the first campus ministry more than 20 years ago. She and her husband are pillars in our newest church planting – the Chaiyo Church of Christ. But it took about 15 years of watching his daughter’s changed life before Chalit finally was persuaded that God is real. I have enjoyed teaching the book of Revelation to Chalit for more than a year. His hunger for God and his intellect are



After teaching university students for more than 35 years, Chalit is a great bridge between the different generations as well as different cultures. He is highly respected at the Chaiyo Church of Christ.



impressive. He has become one of my good friends and we’ve had many great conversations.

His faith is strong and it showed its true colors when he was admitted to

the hospital for a month with a systemic infection. The doctor told his family to prepare for the worst. The infection spread from his lungs and went throughout his body, finally shutting

down his kidneys. His extremities swelled and the doctors put him on a respirator, admitting him into ICU for what they thought could be his final days. Chalit showed no fear of death. He said confidently, “If my time has come, I am ready to go. The Lord has prepared a place for me.” However, the next day Chalit began to improve.

The church family has been thrilled to see his return back home and improving health. It has been a long recovery, but he has never complained. He is now coming back to church and encouraging the rest of us with his strong faith and calming presence.

- David Allen

David, Michelle, Brianna & Brielle Allen



Leaving is exhausting work. Physically and emotionally exhausting. Neither of us are sleeping well. Trying to decide what to sell or give away, and what to take with us (that will all fit in a 20’ shipping container) is so difficult after almost 25 years here. We had our first yard sale, and plan to have a second one our last week or so. Our language tutor from our first year here came by the sale. There may or may not have been tears in my eyes when I (Michelle) talked to her. And when I sold my grandmother’s old rocking chair that I used while nursing my babies. And when some of my dear friends of the last few decades prayed

for me in this time of transition at a recent ladies’ retreat. I’m writing this on our sweet, blind, almost deaf dog’s 14th birthday. She hardly ate anything this past week. We’ll be saying goodbye to her soon. Okay, there have been a lot of tears lately. We are excited about our future, but are grieving the losses as we prepare to leave this home and so many people we love. We have countless unknowns ahead. We are grateful that God has brought us through much in the past, and trust that he will continue to lead us. We appreciate your prayers for us.



These sweet friends prayed for Michelle at the ladies’ retreat.



They really do love each other!!



Double date with Bob and Grace.



Precious friends and prayer warriors.



I sure love this guy!



Prayer partners for many years.

Myanmar Trip Impresses Chiang Mai Team

While this was my 4th trip to visit Eden ministries in Yangon, Myanmar, I am still amazed at the work Eden is doing to prevent human trafficking among the poor.

One of my goals is to encourage collaboration between local churches and non-profit organizations to combat human trafficking. In some ways, Eden is already well along that path, having significant contributions from the local church. I took two church members and one Urban Light staff member from Chiang Mai to learn from the staff at Eden.



Ryan and Mon (Urban Light) pose with Eden-made sanitary pad.

have an insider's perspective and have the trust of the community.

Eden continually finds new ways to address local needs. Their latest idea is teaching poor women to make their own sanitary pads using a special machine. Women's health issues are taboo and often go unaddressed in Myanmar. Eden is stepping in this gap by providing much-needed resources and education.

Our group was impressed with Eden's commitment to empowering local people to serve. Many

of the 40+ staff at Eden work in the same poor neighborhoods in which they grew up. Thus, they

Eden's creative efforts encourage us to consider what the church here can do too.

- Ryan Binkley

Ryan, Ning, Lane, Knox & Fara Binkley



The winter holidays were a much-needed break after a busy semester for the whole family. We took a day trip to hike in a nearby park, watched the Home Alone movies, cooked a meal on Christmas day for Ning's parents, and celebrated New Year's in Ning's hometown. Ryan led games at the church Christmas party, including an exciting version of "Rock, Paper, Scissors." We enjoyed a 2-day team retreat to a nearby resort in January, soaking in the hot springs and playing games of Scrabble. The highlight Christmas present this year was a badminton net we set up in the front yard. Ryan also visited the emergency room with a dislocated ring-finger incurred

while playing goalie in soccer—the injury wasn't bad but swelling meant his wedding ring had to be removed by the doctor. Luckily neither the ring nor Ryan's finger had to be cut as it was removed with a special technique using string. Ning recently served as a driver for Knox's field trip to the botanical gardens. Lane scored a goal in his last soccer game and Knox just started his own soccer camp. Fara is looking forward to starting pre-school in May. Ryan enjoyed a trip with church members to Myanmar, and Ning celebrated a friend's wedding in Bangkok.



Lane battling in his final soccer match of the season.



Celebrating Khao's college graduation at church.



Knox enjoys the botanical gardens with his classmates.



Ning's parents joined us for a Christmas meal.



Ryan's sighs with relief once the ring is removed.



Our January hike was much hotter than we wanted.

Eddie & Connie's Friendship Week Experience

<https://sites.google.com/site/cmfriendshipweek/home>

We ate breakfast with the students at 7:15 before teaching the English lessons. (The students cooked the meals.)

After breakfast, we would sit together as an entire group. Each of the teachers took turns facilitating the lessons. There was much support and input from the other teachers, so the process was not intimidating.

After teaching 4 to 5 lessons, we would divide into smaller groups to discuss and answer questions about the lessons we had covered.

We really enjoyed this time with our smaller group. It gave us an opportunity to interact with them and get to know them a little better. We took the



Eddie & Connie Chrane, Robert, Merri Lynn & Kent Rideout at PCZ.



Connie Chrane said, "I think Paw Shee Shee is just precious."



Eddie Chrane gives a final goodbye hug to a Friendship student.

time to let them write the answers to the questions in the blanks provided, which helped them become more familiar with the English language.

After lunch, we would go as a group on different excursions. Throughout the week, we visited several different locations of interest around Chiang

Mai. Many of the students have very little exposure to big city things, so this time allowed them to experience many things they can't experience back at home.

We were very willing to engage with the students as much as they were willing, and grew closer and closer as the week progressed.

It was so special to learn their names, learn about their personal lives and struggles, and give them love and support.

I am convinced the more effort we put into the interactions with the students, the more it helped our experience be even more rewarding by the time the students departed.

Friendship Week was an incredibly rich experience!
- **Eddie & Connie Chrane**

Robert, Jan, Erika & Branson Reagan



While Erika, Tyler and Branson have been enduring below freezing temperatures in Minnesota and Ohio, Jan and I have been enjoying cool weather in Chiang Mai. Smoke, however, from farmers and mountain people burning fields and mountainsides has blocked the beautiful view of Doi Suthep mountain. During the Christmas break, Jan and I went on a 5-day roadtrip around Northern Thailand with 8 others from the Payap church to visit Gam's family in Nan province. We wanted to let her mom meet the people with whom her daughter had been spending so much time. We were greatly honored by their

family hosting a huge backyard barbecue for us. Branson is in the second semester of his first year in audiology school in Akron, Ohio. Erika and Tyler are both working in Minnesota. Tyler's parents just moved back to live in Bangladesh where Tyler's father has a media company. Jan is being called upon more and more to translate speakers for organizations in Chiang Mai. This year I will host Friendship Week in January, May, July and October. Thank you Kent & Merri Lynn Rideout and Eddie & Connie Chrane for coming to help teach in January.



Airport send-off for Mild, Mook & Gam - going to Taiwan for a semester.



1,000 days of marriage! 10,000+ days of marriage!



Branson studying in Ohio.



Robert & Jan enjoying Japanese food for Valentine's Day.



Erika, Tyler & Yeesha in the freezing weather of Minnesota.



Kent Rideout & Robert race 400 yards downhill at Formula Hmong.

Learning From Those Who Have Gone Before

Sean's Wednesday Night Church History Class

I love to rummage through church history pulling out quotes and stories that I can use in lessons. I am inspired by the heroic devotion of many who have gone before me. I am also warned by their failures, recalling that "he who does not learn from history is destined to repeat it." All my heroes, like all of us, have flaws in both doctrine and character, but I still owe them a debt of gratitude.

My students show up most Wednesday nights



"We have come to the spirits of righteous people made perfect."
Hebrews 12:23, illustration by John Nava

already tired but ready to worship, pray for each other, and hear stories about Christians in the past. We have made it

as far as the fifth century. Often we notice how Christians long ago tackled problems similar to those we are facing now.

Sometimes we see how their decisions and opinions still impact us today.

It's particularly fascinating to see how the church has repeatedly crossed cultures over the past two thousand years. "God of our life, ... give us the sense of comradeship with heroes and saints of every age; and so quicken our spirits, so we may be able to encourage the souls

of all who journey with us on the road of life, to your honor and glory." Augustine of Hippo (A.D. 354-430) - **Sean Todd**

Sean, Pat, Asia & Benjamin Todd



Health update for Sean: They never figured out my problem. It was some sort of infection, either viral or bacterial. It was damaging my liver. Good news: my liver function is back to normal and the headaches are gone. Sleep apnea was not the main issue. Ministry update: I'm getting more use out of my Masters Degree by teaching church history on Wednesday nights (see article above). I'm preaching more, which feeds my spirit. We've also taught English and Couples' Equipping. The Cheung Doi church, like the Overland Park church, is improving in social service. We are trying to get back to doing at least one project each month. We

also need to better encourage and disciple men. Other news: Thailand is holding elections March 24th. Chiang Mai's candidates appear to be primarily cute ladies in athletic jackets. Pray for peace here. Asia and Tyler purchased and moved into a bigger house which should better accommodate their growing family and the in-laws who love to visit. Ben is getting a chance to use his artistic skills to work on some greeting cards. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."



Sean preaching on the justice of God at the Nakorn Ping Church.



Pat taught short classes to prevent sexual abuse of children.



Chiang Mai has unhealthy air and Bangkok's air is dangerous - 437 schools closed on a bad day.



Two more couples went through our couples' equipping course.



Weekly photos of Ellie delight her grandparents.



Khao recently graduated and has a challenging job with a Japanese company.