



Killions In the Kingdom

Serving the living and true God in the Kingdom of Thailand February 2012
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Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings in the Lord from Thailand! One of our favorite verses is 1 Thessalonians 2:8: "Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us." This verse reminds us of the importance of **building relationships** and **investing our lives into others** as we share the good news of God's grace. We trust you are encouraged in your relationship with Christ and others as you read about what God's doing in our lives and ministry.

Homeschooling

Jessica began homeschooling our children, Matthias (grade 4), Abigail (grade 2) and Chloe (kindergarten), last August. This has been a big adjustment for our family and has come with several challenges along the way. Even so, we're thankful for what the Lord is teaching us and for the rewards this change has also brought to our lives. Possibly the greatest blessing is **spending more time** with our kids and, as a result, **knowing them** better. Please pray for our family as we continue homeschooling this year and next.



Homeschooling craft day

Teaching at NCU

In June 2011, I (Nathan) began teaching an English class at North-Chiang Mai University (NCU). Now in my second term at NCU, this position has given us many opportunities to **build friendships** with students and faculty. Most of the students come from Buddhist homes and have very little or no knowledge about the bible or even who Jesus is. In addition to this reality, Thais are meek and will put up a wall if we are too direct or rush into sharing our beliefs with them. So it's very important that we take time to **build solid friendships** in which they can trust us. This is what we've attempted to do over the past several months. During this time we've had natural opportunities to talk about our faith out of

these **relationships**. For example, one day during lunch on campus, several students were talking about how common it is for young men to have multiple girlfriends (just as it's common for men to have more than one wife). At one point, a student turned to me and asked, "Teacher, do you have a mistress?" This question opened a door for sharing about our marriage promises, real love, and how **Christ is at the center of our relationship** as husband and wife. Please pray for these students.

The Centre

A vital aspect of university ministry is having a student center, a place where students can hang out, have fun, be exposed to the gospel and receive the love of Christ. To this end, in November we partnered with The Centre, a reputable university ministry located in Chiang Mai. Through our partnership



Students from NCU



Students from NCU



Sharing about the meaning of Christmas with students at The Centre's Christmas Party

we've opened a branch of The Centre on the ground floor of the house next door to our home. Presently we're offering English lessons in the evenings and holding monthly special events, such as holiday parties, movie nights, and cooking nights. The Centre ministry gives us a chance to **develop deeper relationships** with students and tell them more about the gospel. At our Christmas Party, we were encouraged as students listened attentively as we explained the meaning of Christ-

mas. Afterwards, a Thai friend told us, "These students are interested in God. You need to keep sharing with them." Our vision for the future of this ministry is to occupy a larger location, offer more regular activities, start a bible study, and eventually begin a church. Please pray for this ministry.

When I teach English, I often remind my students that in language learning there are no shortcuts; studying another language is long, hard work. The same is true (we're learning) of sharing the gospel in a Buddhist country. There are no shortcuts to **building sincere, lasting friendships**. Sharing Christ and His love too quickly and directly isn't effective and can actually be destructive. So, we must approach telling others the gospel with an awareness of the culture. Like the Thai practice of speaking in a roundabout way, we are mindful of the importance of **sharing Christ out of the context of loving relationships** and not direct confrontation. Please pray that we'll have wisdom as we endeavor to do this.

2012 Home Assignment

In September our family will return to the States for home assignment. By then it will have been almost four years since we left for Thailand. We hope to see many of you during that time. As we look forward to going, we are also concerned for the continuance of the ministry here. **Please pray with us that God will provide the needed people to lead the campus ministry in our absence.**

As we press on to serve Christ and share His love in these **relationships**, we are also very thankful for the **relationship** we have with you. You are a true encouragement to us as you pray for our family and ministry. May the Lord richly bless you in Christ.

In His grace,
Nathan, Jessica, Matthias, Abigail, and Chloe

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Ministry Update from the Thai Five



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