

To all at Newbold Baptist Church!

We recently realized that it's been a while since we last got in touch to let you know what's been happening in sunny Thailand, and I know so much has happened since, both here and there.

The year continues to go really quick, and when we look back we can't believe we've been here for 7 months already, but at the same time we look at everything God's done in that time and find ourselves asking; "Has it only been 7 months?!" Crazy.

Since February we've seen some awesome things happen, some of them are;

- The youth group has grown from 10-12 in January to over 20!
About 4-5 of the new kids are from the international school where we've been working, which we really praise God for.
We've been having loads of fun with the youth, with girly/lads weekends, trips to the beach, leadership training and loads more. A few weeks ago they took a large part of the Sunday service and ran a community basketball game!



- Toys for Thai's
Some of you will know about a project we recently launched to raise money for equipment, and the support was amazing! We heard of people selling old ties (as in neck ones) for Thai's (I know, it sounds like a Dave Percy joke!), and a beauty salon offering men's chest waxing! The money has helped with equipment for the sports coaching, music clubs at the Life Home Project, making Sussex House (the church based children's home) homier for the kids and taking toys to Burmese children living in extreme poverty.
- Language
Nic recently, and in all honesty, accurately described the Thai lessons as moving 'about the same rate as a snail on sleeping pills!' We've started to learn to read and write Thai as well. "ยุงกัดนี่ง" means mosquito repellent, a very important thing here! (*it took me about 5 mins. to write that, oh dear!*). We'd definitely appreciate your prayers in this as well!

- Visa (...finally!!)
Some very good news, after a visa trip to Malaysia, countless trips to immigration offices, several applications (and the obvious application fees every time), we had a year's visa but the Thai government wouldn't stamp it which meant we still had to reapply every month. Last week we made another trip to immigration and they processed the whole thing in 30mins, and stamped our passports until May 2008! Hooray!
- Schools work
The schools ministry is still going really well, with the Thai school we're working with asking us to have more of a presence in the school, so we'll now be doing 4 pieces of ministry a week there. The international school has nearly finished their academic year and it looks like the kids we've been working with will all graduate [they were working with us as they were really far behind and were looking at having to re-sit the entire year.] Mentoring and Life Home Project have been great as well, as we've been able to get to know the kids better and watch them grow – the recorders are far less squeaky now!
- Hotels
As of next week, Nic and I will be working in 2 5-star hotels providing consultancy for their children's departments. The hotels will make a donation to directly benefit the local kids here, and it will massively raise our profile here which is a great thing as some of the schools have been closed to us as we're not really known yet. A local T.V channel is considering running a special article on how the hotels are working alongside local children's charities.

Like I said, I could go on forever, but fortunately, I won't! We feel really blessed to be here and we really have seen God doing some amazing things since we arrived. We still miss Newbold & if it was possible to be in 2 places at once, we would be!! Take care and we'll see you all in October!

Nic and Sarah

p.s. we like the updated website and have been tuning into the sermons, so we're definitely with you in spirit!!

