

The Hennigs
Missions in Kanchanaburi Province / Thailand
Newsletter 02 - 04 / 2014

Dear friends and prayer partners,

with this letter we send you the latest news from us. We regret that we couldn't keep you better up to date, as we had planned it, but there was so much to do for us. Many things couldn't be foreseen, and there are other things we experienced, that moved our hearts, but we can't write about them. That's life in Thailand! In order to inform you now we had no time to add some pictures, but we promise to send you some in our next newsletter.

About our life

We are very grateful that God has spoken very clearly to us, and that He has given good things through us to people we encounter, even if we don't realize it. We have got a lot of help for preaching and teaching. Now we both preach in Thai, and Reiner could do it several times freely without any written preparation.

We are very grateful for a reliable and hard working woman who helps us a lot in our household, and for a good worker for our garden, who built a dry place for our cats, where they will be able to eat and to rest without becoming wet in the rainy season that will come soon.

During the last months we have had the hot season with high humidity in the air and temperatures up to 38 degrees centigrade. That has been very stressing, especially for Christine. Often she was very weak. We had, however, enough money to buy the water to take enough showers and to give water to the plants in our garden. We could harvest many papaya fruits and a big bunch of bananas.

About the church and the village for children we plan

Due to the lack of additional offerings we couldn't buy the land (50 rai) offered to us by the old owner.

Adjan Yupin and Adjan Bi from Village 11 in our subdistrict (Tambon) Lum Sum have joined wholeheartedly our project and work hard for it. Our friend Pastor Preecha Kirdyoo gave us the information about all the things needed to get the accreditation for his foundation. Because of the many things we had to do we

haven't been able to evaluate that for the foundation we plan, but this certainly will be one of or most important tasks in the next future.

At 28 February Khun Dentai came to us for a surprise visit. We explained to him, why we see us to be lead by God to start the building of the children village by a big church at the center of the village and not with a smaller church at its fringe as a first step. He listened attentively and we had the impression he understood us well. We finished our good encounter with prayer together, and he promised to contact us during the following week. That, however, didn't happen.

Resistance

We don't know, why he didn't come again, but we suspect, that he didn't come because he was threatened. Last summer he had told his son, who lives in our village, to help us, if we need it. Few days later this son came to us and told us, that our life at the village is in danger. To the services we hold each Sunday no one from our village dares to come, even Khun Somnuek, except two of the teenagers we support. We were, however, very glad, that these two teenagers told us some weeks ago, that they want to continue to go with Jesus.

The primary school of our village had asked us to teach English, and all the teachers of the school wanted us to teach all the English lessons at school. In January last year the leader of our district (Amphoe Sai Yok) met Reiner at a celebration of the school and told him: "You must know, we are all Buddhists here." Few days afterwards we were told by the director of the school that we had to teach 1 hour per week only at Friday afternoon. We got a continuation of our work contract with the school for one year, but this year it was not possible any more. As we had got our visa via our employment at school, we had to find now a new way to get visa for Thailand.

The director of the office responsible for the primary schools in our district asked us to offer English lessons for all the officials at his office. We did it, and they liked it, and suddenly that was stopped. The former mayor of our village had asked Reiner to teach English at an institution for adults without secondary education. They can take courses for one or two days per week to get the High School graduation. The mayor brought Reiner to this institution and they were eager to employ him, but that also was blocked.

Visa

When it became clear that we wouldn't get new visa via our school, we asked Christ to Thailand Mission (CTTM), the organization we belong to, for missionary visa. They promised us to get for us visa as missionaries. As a first

step we had to leave Thailand before 30 March and to return to the country as tourists. We decided to **travel to Cambodia 27 March to 1 April.**

In order to use this time well we asked Ethnos Asia, an organization close to CTTM and working besides other countries in Cambodia, too, whether we could do something for them during this travel. Thus we got an invitation to visit a church in a village not easily accessible to tourists. There we helped by teaching English one day to two groups of children from the village. Evelyn, a missionary from the Philippines, who does this teaching normally, provided us with a detailed plan about what to teach and helpful materials. We were very impressed about the quality of the material and the professional planning of the lessons. To teach there was a wonderful experience for us because of the eagerness of the children to listen, to learn and to participate.

On Sunday we saw a very special service in the porch in front of the house of the pastor. We were glad about the many contributions given. We, too, were asked to say something, and we think that we could encourage that little church to go on in spite of all the poverty they have, and because God likes to give especially to those who are dependent on Him.

The pastor told us about the situation in Cambodia: Most people earn 60 – 80 US\$ per month, not enough for a living. Many people, therefore, work in 2 or 3 jobs, and many women see no other way than to earn money in prostitution. In his village live about 1000 families, and most of the adults are HIV positive. Many of them aren't strong enough any longer to go out for work, don't know, how to get money and don't have enough to eat. The pastor invited us to visit together with him 3 families to hear about their situation and to pray for them. We were surprised, when we saw, how many children live in this village. The poverty and the hopelessness at this village has touched our hearts deeply. We have asked God for His wisdom and leading.

Cambodia is a very beautiful land with very big problems. Until today a gigantic number of land mines left from the wars make wide areas of this country unaccessible and useless. During 1975 – 1979 the savage rule of the communist red Khmer killed about a quarter of all Cambodians. In most cases the inner wounds thus caused were not healed and have continued to damage the lives of many.

We returned to Thailand as tourists and were allowed to stay for 30 days in the country. We were told by the man preparing our missionary visa that it would be good to stay for a longer time outside of Thailand. We left Thailand for Laos and stay now as tourists in Vientiane, the capital of the country. Yesterday we heard, that this week there will be a decision, whether there are free visa slots for us. If yes, it will take three months more to prepare our visa. If no, God must open a new way. Our visa for Laos will end at 30 Mai, and there might be the possibility to extend them for another month.

Other events since February

10 February: The **monthly prayer meeting for pastors in Kanchanaburi province** took place in our home. It was a new and good experience for us.

11 - 15 February: Christine takes a rest outside for 5 days in a resort at Lum Sum. The barking of the dogs during the night in our village disturbs her sleep very much. Thus she needed some days outside to have some undisturbed nights and to spend time together with God.

22 February: We joined the wonderful **celebration with Psalm 150 organized by the Bamboo School at Bong Ti.**

15 - 17 March: Missionary Advancement Camp of CTTM. It was organized in order to strengthen the missionaries of CTTM. Several speakers were invited to give teachings about an aspect of the word of God. Reiner was asked to hold two sessions under the theme **"THE FALSE FALLS OFF": THE WORD OF GOD REBUKES OUR FALSE BELIEFS**" He agreed under the condition that we both together could speak. That was welcomed, and as we taught together, we got a lot from God, and we were astonished, what came out of our mouths. We could complement each other very well. It became very clear to us, that we have nothing in ourselves, but that we are dependent on Him and receive His gifts from Him in everything. That is the same thing with Jesus, too, who could nothing do out of Himself.

6. April: We got an invitation, the first of its kind, to the celebration of the **inauguration of a new house** of one of our neighbors, and we went there.

16 -19 April: We went **to Bangkok.** After four years only our passports have become nearly full and we had to go to the German Embassy to apply **for new passports.** We spent time together with Malin Phila, our former coworker and one evening we invited Pattama Sinjumasak to our hotel room. We had very interesting and nice sharing.

20 April: Service at Easter Sunday. We were surprised that 13 guests came from Lum Sum village 1, village 2 and village 11, and from Kanchanaburi city. Since months we never had so many guests in a Sunday service. Reiner preached about the resurrection of Jesus and its effects in our lives. We wish you all, that you will be able more and more to understand, what the resurrection of Jesus really means, and which effects it can have in our lives, if we allow it.

We greet you from Vientiane in Laos in the wonderful name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ

Christine and Reiner Hennig

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In Germany:

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We can withdraw cash from this account via ATM in Thailand. The expenses for it are much less than for a transfer from a German account to a Thai account.

In Thailand:

Mr. Reiner Georg Dr. Hennig
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