The Hennigs Missions in Kanchanaburi Province / Thailand Newsletter 10 - 12 / 2015

Dear friends and prayer partners,

more than one month too late the cold season finally arrived. Now the the nights are very clear and cold and the temperatures during daytime are not as hot as before. The time before was very hot here. Because of some needed changes to our big long distance overhead power cables running along our Highway 323 for several days our electricity was switched off during many day time hours. No fan worked during these times, and we could stand the heat only by laying on our beds and moving sparingly. Our last weeks were quite full, and therefore we couldn't write our newsletter earlier. For some of our friends our Christmas Greetings don't come in time now. Nevertheless we are grateful for your friendship.

God builds a house for us

God builds an eternal house for us, where we can dwell forever. It is a house of love and light, where we can live together with God and our friends. God is there for us, and we can see, how wonderful He is. In this house there is a wonderful place for every human being, everyone is allowed to come.

But if we did something that is not good and not pleasing in the eyes of God, we can't endure to be near to God and to dwell in that house. In order to be able to stand it, we have to be cleaned, but we can't do that ourselves. If we bring our bad things and deeds to God, He cleans us and makes us new. Jesus paid the price for it by his death at the cross upon the hill of Golgotha.

If we allow God to clean us, we can live together with God already now, receive His love and be transformed by Him. Everything in our life, the pleasant and the unpleasant experiences, prepares us to receive the good things God will give us. Thus we can know: The best and most beautiful is yet to come.

Our daily life

We take time to listen together to God. It becomes more and more important for us to be open for the things which are important for Him, and to receive from Him everything we need for our life with Him and for others. And we continue to see it as our way to do the things in unity with each other, that we have to do. For our life together it is important to have enough time to talk with each other about actual things and about fundamental issues. Therefore we take one day per week as day for our marriage without any other appointments. For both of us it is important to have order in our house, and that requires time.

Christine's main tasks are the preparation of our meals, the work with children and youth and the care for the needy. The preparations for these things take quite a lot of time. She is the one who mainly talks with our workers. She keeps contacts over internet. Sometimes she preaches on Sundays. She likes to take pictures with our camera and puts pictures into Facebook and into our web site. She designed our little white house and its gardens, and she plans our Christmas party.

Reiner's tasks are language learning, the preparation of our foundation and the writing of texts, especially of texts in small size. He writes texts for our web site. He holds our Sunday Service, accompanies the songs on his keyboard and preaches most Sundays. Every day he blows the Schofar over our village. In the morning he feeds dogs and cats. He repairs damaged appliances and makes small repairs in our house.

In order to buy things we must ask our workers Khun O and Khun Fon to bring us with their pick up truck to our provincial capital Kanchanaburi (40 - 50 km), to Wang Pho (8 km), the place of our district administration and our district hospital, or to Sai Yok Noi Nam Tok (22 km), the next bank office. The trips to Kanchanaburi take at least half a day, but if we have to buy many things for poor people it is often a whole day.

Our health

Christine's strength has grown during the last months, and she can work much more than before. We could spend hours in a department store without the need to use a wheel chair. There are, however, yet days, when she is very weak and has to lie down a lot. Reiner can work well in the office, but can't do hard physical work. For him a bag weighing 4 kg is very heavy. We can stand quite well trips to Bangkok in the truck of our workers because of the air condition there, but bus travels of 6-8 hours apiece are yet too much for us. Up to now we can't go for big

walks in our village.

For some days Christine was very much tormented by strong itching, until we found out, that we had new pets: Christine could catch and kill 70 lice. She got rid of further unwanted guests in her hair by treating them accordingly. Reiner got rid of the problem by cutting all his hairs to a length of 3 mm using his hair cutting machine.

Support of needy people.

The support of the needy goes on. Old people from the age of 60 years upward get 600 THB per month from the Kingdom of Thailand, that is 20 THB or 0.50 Euro per day. For people under 60 there is no unemployment assistance. Most of our villagers work for day wage. If they can't work because of illness, they don't get any money from social security, they get simply nothing. In Thailand it is custom, that the youngest daughter cares for the parents. People without income can get a loan with an interest of 10 % per week. We know a mother of 5 children who has no one to care for her. She has become so weak, that she can work some hours per day only or nothing at all. For her work she earns not more than 100 THB per day, that is about 2.50 Euro, not enough to feed her family. In order to support up to 10 families and one single person in need, we have come to the point that we have to buy a lot of food and personal care products. Members of these families come to our home to fetch their things. A friend of us gave us intact and clean clothes she doesn't wear any longer; these clothes, too, were taken gladly. That way other adults from our village, too, come to our house sometimes. We continue our support of 3 high school students by giving them a monthly amount for bus transport to the school and a midday meal at the school.

Children and youth

Some children and youth come very regularly to Christine's lessons for English, cooking and baking. At two Saturdays 13 or 14 persons came and made it impossible to work in a concentrated and effective way; these lessons had to be times of play only. Sometimes children pass by during other days of the week. During the second half of October there were school holidays in Thailand. During these weeks children were free to visit us several times per week.

To our Sunday Services at 5 p. m. came 4-5 children. Since November

9 or more visitors have come to the Services, among them one or several adults. We can see that the children are very interested and sing our songs with conviction. They love especially the song "Rau mi tschaitschana nai Phra Jesu" (We have victory in Jesus Christ). We had found out, that Thai people love marching music, as for example the National anthem. Reiner therefore asked God to give him words to the famous German march Preussens Gloria (the glory of Prussia) from the year 1871. God gave words that proclaim the victory and the rule of Jesus, first in the German language and later on in Thai. Most of the other songs we sing we got form God, too.

It seems that the children and youth like to come to our Services. We encourage them to bring their own contributions, for example when we give thanks to God and pray for ourselves and for others. When we could not be at Lum Sum one Sunday, because we had to go to Khon Kaen, we encouraged the children to meet themselves and to read a Bible text and to pray together. Afterwards we learned, that they met and read Mt. 24, 24 – 31. As far as we can see, God works at the hearts of some of them.

Our little white house

The building and planting of the gardens around our little white house is finished. The first guests came: Two women of a Christian Church in Bangkok. They spent 10 days in that house and had most of their meals with us. They had a good time with God, with each other and with us. We look forward to our next guests. (2 Single rooms, 1 double room, accommodation and meals free)

Our workers

After the end of the rainy season there is a lot to do on the fields. Therefore our workers Khun O and Khun Fon have now a lot to do on their own fields and on the fields of their relatives. They come, however, every day in the evening to water our gardens, and they come, when additional tasks are needed, for example spraying against pests. Regularly they buy for us the drinking water in plastic bottles 20 I each, in our village the usual and cheapest way. If we say it 2 days in advance, they drive us to the shops, the hospital, to Kanchanaburi and even to Bangkok. Khun Kanitha comes twice per week to wash our laundry and our dishes and to clean our first floor. In the afternoon she does some simple office work: cutting and laminating cards and papers, preparing our newsletter to be sent and other things. If Khun Kanitha can't work,

Khun Fon comes to help. We therefore have much less to do for the household, and that is a great help for us.

Encounters at our home

On October 19th we had just come back from a trip to Kanchanaburi, where we had to do a lot for buying things, and we lay down to rest from our effort. Ten minutes later a pick up truck arrived with Khun Paeng from YWAM Kanchanaburi, her mother and her daughter and seven young adults: 2 women from the North of Thailand and 5 US Americans. The Americans were on a 11 months tour organized by World Race. This Christian organization offers to young adults 11 months tours around the world with outreach in several countries. Now they spent several weeks in Thailand. We needed, as so often, really God's help, and it was a very good encounter with talks, songs and fun. That team decided to come again for 2 days during day time in beginning of November to help us and to distribute Christian tracts in our village. They did it, and they were surprised how open the people were for their tracts and how well we are known in our village. Again we had a good encounter with them and a bit discipleship training.

November 24th Adjan Yupin from Lum Sum village 11 came to us together with Adjan Bi, Khun Paitoon, Khun Yotaka and 2 women of their mother church in Bangkok. Because of our health we were not able to com to the Sunday Services in village 11. The mother church helps to build a new building with a watertight roof in village 11. We had a cordial encounter.

Longer travels

Longer travels are a really big effort for us. Therefore we like to have an additional day of rest when arriving at our destination, before we start with our work there.

In order to prepare our new visa we had to see our lawyer on November 20^{th} , in order to give him a medical health certificate and to sign some application forms. We got the health certificate at our district hospital on 17^{th} and went to Bangkok on 18^{th} . We had a day of rest and in the evening a good encounter with our friends Pattama Sinjumpasak and Pumarin Klabjai. Pumarin invited us to see her office at OMF, and we went there in the afternoon next day. We were welcomed by several of her colleagues at the office and we had a good talk with Buzz Curtis. In

the evening we had a very good meal and talk together with Pumarin. With the taxi we returned to our hotel. As agreed we met our lawyer next morning at the office of CTTM and returned with the taxi to Lum Sum.

On December 6 - 8th was the meeting of the pastors and missionaries of our organization Christ to Thailand Mission (CTTM). There is a bus directly from Kanchanaburi to Khon Kaen, but the 8 hours travel was too much for us. Thus we decided to fly from Bangkok to Khon Kaen (50 min.) and asked our workers to bring us to the Bangkok airport on time at December 5th. There we spent a relaxed day until the meeting started in our hotel in the afternoon of December 6th with the graduation of the students of the MBS, the Bible School of CTTM. Then we had 2 days with a full program and good encounters and thoughts about the future of our work. Reiner and Christine were ask to hold a final speech of 40 minutes. The next day we flew back to Bangkok and met there after our landing at the immigration office near to the airport (Don Mueang) we had landed. We got our new one year visa until December 21st 2016. We had a day of relaxing in Bangkok and were brought back to our village by our workers at December 11th.

At December 22nd we had again to go to Bangkok in order to buy a big quantity of fruits and vegetables for the Christmas party we will have at our village at December 26th.

Reiner has a visa and a work permit as a protestant Christian missionary, and Christine has a visa for being his loving wife. For both of us it is, however, evident, that Christine is at least as much a missionary as Reiner. She was the person God could use to start the mission work here at Lum Sum.

Learning the Thai language

During the last months Reiner did a lot for learning this language. He filled a writing book with 200 pages size DIN A 4. He noted in it all the information contained in a book about Thai grammar and about 1100 words to learn and repeated them according to a special method. Now he checks , how many of the words noted he has learned. It is about 3 / 4 of the words noted, and he will do the same with the grammar. During preaching nearly every Sunday he can see very clearly the progress he made with the language. Christine, too, made steps forward in the language and preached several Sunday sermons during the last months.

Reasons to give thanks to God

- · for our new visa until December 2016 and for Reiner's work permit,
- · for receiving everything we needed for ourselves and for others,
- for many good ideas God has given us for preaching, for the work with children and teenagers, for our little white house and its gardens and for the preparation of meals,
- for the excellent support by Khun Fon and Khun O in household, garden, and transport, and by Khun Kanitha in our household,
- for the children who come to us and are keen to listen, sing and pray.

We ask God

- for help in a good preparation of our foundation,
- for the right guests in the right time in our houses, and that they receive here the things they need from God,
- for the work of God in the hearts of those who hear the Word of God from us,
- for enough rain in those provinces of Thailand, that didn't have yet enough rain this year

We send you warm greetings from Lum Sum

Yours sincerely

Christine and Reiner Hennig

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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.

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Mr. Reiner Georg Dr. Hennig **Mrs. Christine Margarete Hennig**

Kasikorn Bank

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Pictures from Lum Sum

Our little white house and its gardens



seen from north west



entrance seen from west



the north west corner of the garden



southern garden



view towards south west towards our main house

Sunday Service at Lum Sum



the way of Jesus



listening to the sermon



Today many came to our Service.

We greet from Lum Sum.



