

The Hennigs
Missions in Kanchanaburi Province / Thailand
Newsletter 07 - 09 / 2014

Dear friends and prayer partners,

on September 5th we were informed, that our visa as a missionary couple are approved by the Kingdom of Thailand. We shall fly on September 17th to Phnom Penh in Cambodia, to get there our visa at the Royal Thai Embassy. We had waited for these visa since begin of April. The uncertainty when we would get the visa and whether we would get them was difficult to bear, especially for Christine. Now we are very much relieved. After our time in Laos during May and June we had got 60 days tourist visa for Thailand because of an invitation to Chiang Mai in the North of Thailand, and an invitation to Phuket, an island in the South.

2. - 12. July 2014: Travel to Chiang Mai

At Chiang Mai we visited Paul Almstead and his wife Marisa. Chiang Mai is the most important city in the North of Thailand, about 700 km or 430 miles distant from Kanchanaburi City. Paul is an American and worked as a commanding officer in a high-security prison. He was a hard man at that time. After his retirement he moved to Thailand and married Marisa, a Buddhist Thai woman. Some years ago a Thai Christian lady asked Marisa, whether she would like to spend her time after death in Hell or in Heaven. As she preferred to be in Heaven, she received the redemption in Jesus and gave Him her life. Later on, Paul, too, decided to go that way. During the 3 years since then God has done very much in their lives. They take orphans into their families and children who are not cared for by their parents. At the moment they have 5 of these children in addition to Marisa's own teenage daughter. Marisa has cancer and had to undergo chemotherapy and radiation treatment. Many other persons who underwent the same treatment together with her were very surprised, that she wasn't in despair, but glad and comforted even in strong pains. Thus she could give a convincing testimony about Jesus to many persons. Paul takes care of refugees from Burma and North Korea. One day per week he works in a Christian bookstore. This family trusts, that God will provide for everything they need for themselves and for others. The whole family prays in faith, the teenagers they care for and even the 3 year old Joseph. We are very impressed by their lives, and how much God can make of a life within 3 years only. And we are impressed by the quality of the life of the children, that live with them.

At the bookstore, where Paul works, people can get Christian books and tracts for free. We could get there quite a lot of tracts for our work. Scott Noble, an American missionary, donated us 12 Thai bibles. Paul Almstead sent us the tracts and the bibles in 2 parcels, when we were back home.

12. - 17. July 2014: Travel to Chiang Rai

From Chiang Mai we went on to Chiang Rai, nearly 120 km further up North. We visited there MOUNG Aracha, who had translated for Reiner at a Christian Camp in 2011 and who manages there a hotel. MOUNG belongs to the minority of the Mien. She lives a clear commitment to Jesus, doesn't display herself, works very hard and is a very good manager. We had a wonderful time in her hotel and tasty meals in her restaurant. On Sunday we went with her to Church and were asked to preach there for a quarter of an hour.

On Monday afternoon we asked MOUNG to bring us to the shop of her Father, that she now manages also. It is a big discount store for food, household articles and stationery. We bought there a lot. On the next evening we came with MOUNG to the cell group she attends and preached there. We were asked to say something per phone to an old German, who lies in the hospital because of cancer, who had given his life to Jesus a short time ago. We had a good talk with Tien, a young women from China, who works as realtor all over Thailand. She is a Christian and wants to live totally committed to Jesus.

We returned to Chiang Mai for one night and returned the next day directly to Kanchanaburi City by bus and from there with a taxi to our home. There we had an enthusiastic welcome by our dogs. There were few days left only until our next departure to unpack our suitcases, wash our laundry and to prepare for our next travel.

21. July – 1. August 2014: Travel to Phuket

Kanda, who had traveled with us last year in Germany, had invited us to visit her at Phuket. We started at July 21st to Bangkok, about 180 km or 112 miles and from there during the night by bus to Phuket, about 850 km or 530 miles. There we were welcomed the next morning by Kanda, who had rent a small flat for us in the same house, where she lives. During the next time we saw nice places at the island of Phuket, spent a fine time together with Kanda and came to know a number of interesting Christians. We met Khun Jitra, a widow since 20 years and a business

woman. She gave us two suitcases full with used clothings to give them to poor people in our village. One evening and one morning we met with Khun Noi, a Thai Christian lady living in the USA and with Khun Thippawan, her sister, and Ajan Khamphan, the husband of her sister. Ajan Khamphan works as pastor in the North East of Thailand. He confirmed many things we had discovered about the situation of the Christians in Thailand. We agreed about the things needed for the future of the Christians in Thailand.

On Sunday we went to the Christian Center Phuket. Pastor Brian Burton preached about Phil. 4: God has all circumstances under control, don't try to have everything under control, but yield the control of your life daily to God!

With Kanda and her friend Namphet we visited a beautiful beach in the South of Phuket. On our last day Kanda drove us to a beach in the West of the island and told us about the background of Thailand. In the past the king was the absolute ruler over Thailand, and his subjects were his slaves he could treat as he liked. There was no law the subjects could confront and limit the power of the king. Until today the fear of persons in power has determined the life of most Thai persons.

The next day we returned by bus to Bangkok. The bus took 14 hours for it. After a night in a hotel we went with a taxi to our house. The travel with the taxi is much cheaper in Thailand than in Germany and cost less than 50 Euro.

Again at Lum Sum since 1. August 2014

This time again Khun Fon had fed our animals. We are glad about the relationship with her. She and her family , however, were beaten up the second time by another family in our village. Now she has several trials and had to pay quite high court fees. We are grateful, that Khun Fon comes twice a week to us and is an active and reliable helper for Christine. A real friendship has grown between the two women.

Because of severe problems in his family the man who had worked in our garden moved away during our stay in Laos. The garden, therefore, was not tended and looks not good anymore. The father of Khun Fon sprayed herbicide and prevented thus that the weeds became an impenetrable jungle. We were not able to use the greatest part of the rainy season, that is the best time during the year for gardening.

Several times children from the village came to us, played, had a meal with us and got the clothes Khun Jitra had given to us. Several times Chai and Sothu came to our Sunday services, but no adults from the village. We assume they are afraid. Pastor Yupin from Lum Sum Village 11, however, with her helper Khun Yotaka have helped us a lot in practical things. They come each Sunday to our Sunday service, once even with her whole congregation. She promised to hold our Sunday service, when we can't be at Lum Sum.

Our stay at Lum Sum was marked by the fact, that we had to leave the country at August 15th. We planned to go to Bangkok at August 15th, to meet Pumarin Klabjai there, and to have one day of rest there. We booked the hotel, the flight to Cambodia and four nights in a hotel in Phnom Penh. In the evening of August 12th we had prepared everything for our travel. During the night to the 13th, however, Reiner got violent shivering and had to be brought to our district hospital at Wang Pho, 8 km or 5 miles distant. A very strong infection had led to a sepsis threatening his life. He had to stay three days at the hospital to get infusions there and two weeks at home taking strong antibiotics and staying in bed most of the time. The first days there was a strong infection of his skin near his left lower leg, making standing very painful. Now he is fine again, but has yet to avoid strong efforts.

Christine's strength has grown less and strongly varies. There are days, when she can do quite a lot, and other days, when she is exhausted after one hour work only. Sometimes she is extremely weak.

Reiner was released from hospital on a Friday afternoon, too late for Christine to reach the immigration office at Kanchanaburi City before closing time. She went there Monday morning, but the immigration office fined us for our 3 days visa overstay with 3000 THB (500 THB per person and day) in spite of the medical certificate for Reiner written by the physician at the hospital. She could then get a visa extension of 30 additional days until August 17th for both of us at a price of 1900 THB per person. We didn't get a refund for the hotels we had booked, and most of the money we spent for our flight is lost, too. For the additional time we have been able to spend at our home, however we are very grateful.

We have been very moved by the terrible situation of the persecuted Christians, especially now in Iraq. With deep pain we see the development now in Germany and the sad state many Christians are in. We ask God for His mercy. We as a couple had gone through some very difficult situations. In a series of long talks we could clarify some misunderstandings caused in part by the fact, that men and women

think differently. Reiner now helps more in the household.

For some weeks nearly no children came to us. During the last days we had twice more than 10 children in our home, and last Sunday 3 children, all of them younger than 8 years, came to our Sunday service. None of them had come before. As we had this Sunday besides them only Khun Yotaka and Khun Jiap, her friend with us, we held a special Service for these children. The children listened to the healing of the blind Bartimaeus and were taught how to pray. They fully participated.

The house of our neighbor Khun Suriya

We got the offer to buy the house of our neighbor for 1 Mio. THB (about 24 000 Euro). Khun Suriya, had got cancer, and the family had asked us to come over and pray regularly for him. Kanda led him to give his life to Jesus. Reiner, and sometimes we both, went nearly each day to him and prayed for him, until he died in November 2012. Since that time no one has lived in this house or bought it. We prayed about it and we said, that we are interested in buying it, and we have to enter the negotiations.

Reasons to give thanks

- Our visa as a missionary couple are approved.
- Reiner's medical treatment was successful. It made it possible to stay 33 days more in Thailand instead of waiting in Cambodia.
- Misunderstandings in our marriage could be clarified.
- During August people gave us a lot of vegetables, more than many weeks before.
- We got 12 Thai Bibles and many tracts free and we didn't have to carry them home, but got them sent by post with 2 parcels.
- We had great encounters on our travels and have come to understand Thailand better.
- Pastor Yupin and Khun Yotaka have helped us very much in our services and with practical things, especially when we had to buy a lot of things in the city.

Things we ask God for:

- That we have a good travel to Cambodia and get our visa.
- We need to see clearly what we have to do, as soon as we are officially recognized as Christian missionaries.

- We need time, strength and wisdom to get and to produce all the papers needed for our planned foundation.
- We need time, strength and success for learning the Thai language.
- We need a gardener, a person who does repairs and painting in our house and enough help in our household.
- We want to buy the house of our neighbor.

We are very grateful for the connection with with you.

Yours sincerely *Christine und Reiner Hennig*

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In Germany:

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Account Nr. 5403753110
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BIC-/SWIFT-Code: INGDDEFF

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
Mrs. Christine Margarete Hennig

Kasikorn Bank

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