

## *Mission service in Kanchanaburi province /Thailand*

### *Letter to Friends 12/2011*

*Dear relatives, friends and prayer partners,*



we hope that you could experience a beautiful Christmas time. Unfortunately, during the past weeks we had very limited access to computers. Therefore we were not able to write to you before Christmas. Before this eventful year comes to an end, however, we want to inform you again.

Perhaps you are surprised at the new appearance of our circular. We felt forced to leave the Philadelphia Church International (PCI). This Church had sent us out to Thailand. Our pastors David and Karin Roberts have put themselves under the spiritual cover of the American apostle and prophet Paul Brandt. Seeing Paul's preaching in the internet led us to the conclusion, that we cannot be under Paul, neither directly nor indirectly. Praying, searching the scriptures, emails exchanged with Karin and David and personal encounters and talks with them and with Paul Brandt confirmed our first impressions. Thus a very intense phase of searching the will of God led us to leave PCI and to quit our ministry under them. That was not an easy step, because we had learned many very important things from our pastors. They treated us always well and with love and showed us great respect. Without Paul Brandt we would have had no reason to go. The farewell was not easy, but we parted in peace and mutual respect with prayer and blessing.

In Thailand our Church is under Christ to Thailand Mission (CTTM). We informed the leaders of this organization that we had to leave PCI. They sent us a letter of recognition, stating that they recognize us as members of the missionary work force of CTTM. They told us, that they would maintain this recognition even if we have to leave PCI. Thus we are now missionaries of a Thai organization, and we are very glad, that we can be in spiritual unity with them for our ministry.

We continue to have our old name Philadelphia Church International Lum Sum, because the brotherly love is very important for us, and we serve in our church not only Thai people, but also people belonging to the minorities Karen, Burmese and Mon.

#### **Our this year's home leave was anything but restful, the planned 6 weeks then finally turned into 10 weeks:**

1) Christine had to go to the hospital for 14 days in the second week. An infection by 3 very aggressive tropical bacteria became so strong, that a total breakdown of her immune system with ensuing death could be avoided by a very rapid treatment with antibiotics only. After the stay in hospital, for some time, Christine was still very weak. Therefore we were not able to do all the visits desirable or necessary.

2) We hired a car and travelled through Germany more than 2 weeks to visit our mothers, other relatives and some of our friends. When we gave back our car 4 weeks later, we had driven with it nearly 4000 km, with a lot of wonderful encounters. We were, however, quite exhausted.

3) When we flew to Thailand in September 2010, we could not all of our belongings bring or send to Thailand. We could leave the rest in the basement of the house of our pastors David and Karin Roberts. As we decided to leave PCI, we had to find a new place for our things and ourselves while staying in Germany. A very dear friend gave us the possibility of storing our things in one of her storage rooms and to live in her house for the remaining weeks.

4) We had then to complete the accounting for January to November 2011. We had to find the right category for all our receipts and to convert all the amounts given in Thai Baht to Euro. We were very glad, when we could give the whole work to Karin Roberts.

5) The PGI has been able to accept and to certify tax privileged donations. Upon leaving PCI we had to find a new organization doing that for us. We found the Lutheran parish of Heiligenstadt i. Ofr. together with the association "Missionsverein Lasst uns gehen!" Reiners's father was born and grew up at Siegritz, a village that belongs to the small town Heiligenstadt. Reiner has had a cordial relationship to this village and to the work of God going on in this parish. He has been well known there and had even held some church services as a lay preacher at the churches at Heiligenstadt and Siegritz. During October we had visited Heiligenstadt and told about our work in Thailand. As that was received very well, the elders of the parish decided to send us out with a prayer and a blessing in November 27th, and the Missionsverein decided to accept and certify donations for us in Germany. They trust us and require from us only this: Do what the Holy Spirit says to you. We want to express our gratitude to all of them for the trust, they put in us, especially to Pastor Heinrich Schuster and the cashier Heinz Sponsel.

6) After a big effort for the final preparations for our flight we could return to Thailand.

We have very kindly been received and cared for by different friends in our time in Germany.

### **We finally arrived in Thailand on December 2nd again.**

From the airport we went directly to our house in Lum Sum, stayed there one night and a half day and went off to spend a week at Khon Kaen in the North East of Thailand. At Khon Kaen we attended Khon Kaen Praise, an event for the whole Body of Christ in this city, a conference of the missionary workers of CTTM and a Pastoral Leaders' Training of CTTM. We are very glad, that CTTM, too, trusts us, and we are very pleased by the clear spiritual direction of the organisation we belong to now.

We returned to Lum Sum and spend a week there to clean our dirty house and the neglected garden. We are very glad, that Khun Fon comes one or two mornings per week to help us in the household, and she does this with energy, diligence and pleasure. Khun Sa comes to us nearly daily to help us in the garden and in dishwashing.

Sunday December 18th we had our first Sunday Service after our stay in Germany. Ten children of different ages came. After singing some songs the smaller children played, but the four teenagers listened very interested to Christine's preaching.

Since both the weeks in Germany and the 2 weeks in Thailand were very full and exhausting, we spent some days of the relaxing in Nonthaburi near Bangkok. These days were very good for us and we had some very beautiful meetings with Thai friends there.

We held a Christmas Service on December 25th. We were surprised, that 43 children and adults filled the room and heard that Jesus came to set us free from guilt, from curse, from demons and from death. After the service and the lunch everyone got a small gift, and we had a time of playing together.

After Christmas, we spent considerable time to write and send this letter to the friends in Germany. Besides we have begun to put harder efforts into our learning of the Thai language, as in our village we can communicate with the people here in Thai only.

### **New projects: 1) Baby house in the provincial capital of Kanchanaburi:**

In November we got three months visa for Thailand in order to to get visa of longer duration in Thailand. The Government of Thailand reduces the number of visa for Christian missionaries, Thailand, however, welcomes Christians doing social work. Our envisioned village for children in need certainly is social work. CTTM has a foundation (the Goodwill Foundation) for Church based social work. The project of our children village, however, has not yet matured enough to be appreciated by the Thai Government as a viable project. As a first step towards it we think about building a house for unwanted babies including a baby bank, where a mother in distress can give away her baby anonymously. In a second step we envision the construction of a house, where single mothers can live in preparation for the birth of their babies and after birth for some time together with their babies. In a third step we think about a room where these mothers can give birth within our house. This project should be built at Mueang Kanchanaburi, the capital of our province. We intend to build it in close collaboration with all Christian Churches at Kanchanaburi and with the provincial authorities and the big provincial hospital at Mueang Kanchanaburi. We see this project as a first step towards our planned village for children in need in Lum Sum.

### **New projects: 2) Marriage seminars**

A good friend us us, a Thai pastor, urgently asked us to hold marriage seminars. The institution of the marriage is in a deep crisis in Thailand. We know that in our village with about 1000 inhabitants there is hardly any intact marriage. We have been married one and a half years only, but in looking back at the last year we can be extremely grateful to God, when we see how he has kept and carried us through hard times and heavy attacks. Our marriage has not been wrecked through this but the basic decisions at the beginning of our marriage have proven themselves as a solid foundation and our relationship was strengthened and our love has grown strong. So we may be able to help others to find a stable basis for their marriage.

### **Please pray for the following requests:**

- Protection from spiritual attacks
- Supernatural help for learning the language
- Help for the planning of the baby house. We want to build these facilities in harmony with the Thai laws and authorities. Therefore we plan on the first two weeks in January talks with the provincial Office for Social Development and Human Security.
- Good and able workers for the baby house
- 20.-25. 01.2012 visit to a children's village including a Baby house at Surat Thani (southern Thailand), led by Christians
- in February: marriage seminars in different churches of Thailand
- God's help for the leading of our Church at Lum Sum
- one or two Thai persons who help us in our Sunday services, in our language learning and when we need a translator
- to get finally one year visa (hopefully this will be a result of our baby house project)

**Thank you for your friendship and for your support!  
May God bless you richly and give you a very good year 2012.**

**Yours in Christ Jesus**

*Christine und Reiner Hennig*

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