

From: pooyailee [mailto:pooyailee@bellsouth.net]  
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2009 8:56 AM  
To: Undisclosed-Recipient:;  
Subject: Periodic report

Dear everyone at Ruth Memorial,

Chai and I are missing all of you too.

The news from here is good. Except for this last week of just visiting family and eating the best food in the world (of course I am biased), I have been busy and successful in making the contacts for the work I will be doing. As soon as we arrived in Bangkok, Chai went home to her family in Mahasarakham.

I stayed in Bangkok and made two work related excursions before driving 6 hours to join Chai and the family. I first went to southern Thailand to investigate future collaboration with the Chumporn campus of Maejo University. Not much beef cattle production there but great potential from cheap feeds (oil palm and coconut byproducts). They grow mostly oil palm, rubber trees, and coconuts as they have adequate rain 8 months of the year and some rain in the other months.

My second trip to Saraburi was to visit a commercial feedlot for cattle and visit with representatives of the largest feedmill company in the world, Chareon Phakponh (CP) - not a typo - WORLD. I might get some support from them but they act as if everything they do is a trade secret. From years of contract farming in the hog and poultry industries, I know that CP has walked the fine line between helping and exploiting poor farmers.

Last week Chai and I went to Vientiane, Laos for two days where I met with agriculture workers in the International Center for Tropical Agriculture. They are interested in collaborating in the work I will be doing with Thai and Vietnamese universities. Everything in Laos has changed a lot. They have moved the hospital where my children were born 40 years ago. Surprisingly, I can still speak Lao about as well as when I left in 1971. It was fun reminiscing (sp?) with the older people who remembered the Mekong River flood of 1966 that flooded almost everything for two weeks.

Today I am going to visit an old friend and professor of animal science at Khon Kaen University, about one hour's drive from Mahasarakham. I will probably be working with KKU after mid July. First, June 14, Chai and I will be traveling to the main campus of Maejo University in Chiang Mai where I will be working until mid July.

Chai's family is all excited because our son Benson is coming to visit July 10 to 14. His aunts and uncle have not seen him since he was 3 years old. He has 7 first cousins, some trying to learn English very fast:-)

If you remember over a year ago we prayed for Sgot (two syllables), my nephews son, 15 years old, who was unconscious for a long time, in intensive care, not knowing if he would live or not, from a motorcycle crash with a car at a 4-way intersection. Our prayers were answered. Sgot is home where his parents, grandparents, aunts, and great aunts and uncles all take care of him and help in his recovery. You will never see a more loving and supportive family. He still cannot walk or talk, feed or bathe himself, etc. but just in the few weeks here I have seen some improvement from the physical therapy the family gives him. He understands everything that is said and has a great sense of humor. The doctor seems to be a good one but does not promise a complete recovery, which is right, but is optimistic that Sgot will walk in a year and speak in two years since he is still young and brain damage heals more rapidly. Please put Sgot on our prayer list, that he will have a complete recovery in a shorter time period than anyone could possibly expect. In short, pray for a miracle.

Copy and paste the above paragraph for the congregation. I will give you updates as often as I can.

We need rain. It is later than usual this year and the rice can't be planted until it rains enough. The later the planting, the lower the yield. Besides no rain, the weather is either hot or hotter. No air conditioning, just fans. Two to three showers per day is common. Hot water heaters not needed. Not complaining, just stating the facts.

Love to all of you,

David and Chai

P.S. Decided to copy to more than church members. Just lazy I guess.