



GLOBAL | INTERACTION

SMITH'S SWELTERING

May, 2012

Hi everyone. April has been a full month with a variety of activities keeping us busy. We have enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate Easter with the church we have been attending, celebrating Songkran with our neighbours, and continued language study. As we write we are enjoying some rain and a couple of cooler days to give us relief from the heat. It is a pleasant change we are relishing.

School

Josiah and Tillie continue to enjoy their school. After a two week break over Easter, they have started their final term before their long break over June and July. They are currently enjoying swimming for PE. They also take pleasure in playing with and caring for their pet hamsters.

Language

We were excited recently to find a language helper. She lives very close to us and enjoys spending time helping people practice their Thai. So we are happy to be complementing our language school classes in this way.

What Would You Do?

Every day brings us unexpected challenges here. An older Thai man appeared at our door one afternoon. He had crutches and was respectfully greeting me. I hadn't seen him before so I was polite and asked his name. It wasn't long and he directly asked me for money, stating he needed to have something done at the hospital. Language barriers meant I didn't understand everything, but I was suspicious about the truth of the story. I know there is some kind of social system to help poorer people and they all have access to health care at minimal or no cost. I proceeded to ask him questions and some things didn't seem to add up. My thoughts were varied: What is the appropriate way to deal with this? What would a Thai person do? Was I being targeted because I was a "rich foreigner"? If I gave him the money, what would it be used for? How can I not give him money whilst my children are buying ice-cream from the local vendor? Is just handing him the money, as he was expecting me to, empowering him? What would you have done?



Prayer points:

1. Praise God for the times we had during Songkhran to connect with our neighbours. We gained valuable cultural insight by participating in water throwing, witnessing different parades and temple ceremonies (even if it meant being uncomfortably wet in the process!).
2. Pray for us to discover ways to be spiritually nourished in this different culture..
3. Julia is excited about the “divine” opportunities she has had for building relationships, like eating lunch with her neighbour and chatting with the sewing lady.
4. Pray for continued wisdom in deciding the sequence of modules at the language school.
5. Our colleagues, Muana and Villy are currently on home assignment and require further financial support to enable their return to Thailand. Pray for God’s timely provision in this matter. If you are able to help you can get details here...

<http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/Support/Workers/Staff/MuanaandVilly.aspx>

Moved Resource

We mentioned the new resource from Global Interaction called “Moved” in our last newsletter. We again want to encourage you to check it out and get your church involved. You can see clips and get all the information you need at: www.globalinteraction.org.au/moved.



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