



the PIAWONGS

with ywam thailand

A BUSY FEW MONTHS

Hey everyone! We've been quite busy lately setting up our new schedule for this next season of ministry. You can see more at the bottom of this page. From the end of June until now we've had some visitors and are expecting another team in early-mid September. God has guided us to start new ministries with the local school, community and two of the local churches. We've had the chance to be involved with jail ministry, where we witnessed God moving in the lives of young men and women in the local jail who want a fresh start in life.

We've been blessed at the monthly prayer meetings we take a part in as well as at the YWAM conference which God provided the finances for ALL SIX OF US to attend! Noom and I celebrated our 2nd wedding anniversary and Noom's 30th birthday with a small family BBQ and a mini holiday in some nice areas in Ubon - thanks to some friends and family who gave us money specifically to get out of the house and rest for a few days before the baby comes (due in a couple of months). Please read on for more updates :-)



This newsletter...

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

September:

- 4th-9th** Karis' family visiting
- 9th-15th** Laos DTS team visiting
- 16th** Pastor's Prayer Gathering

October:

- 20th** Jail ministry
- 25th** Last week of teaching English (until next year)

November:

- 6th** Baby's due date!

December:

- 1st-5th** Soccer team from Baan Jai Diaow visiting
- 28th** Leave Ubon for Chiang Rai

A WEEK IN THE LIVES OF "US"

Sunday - leading worship at Good News Church every 1st and 3rd week of the month (and attending different local churches every other week)

Monday is our rest day :-)

Tuesday - worship and prayer meeting with the boys, teaching English at Baan Don Kae School in our community

Wednesday - cell group or "family time" with the boys - we change the leader of this time every week

Thursday - worship and prayer meeting with the boys and one-on-ones, jail ministry with AOG Church every 3rd week of the month

Friday - prayer meeting with our YWAM Ubon family, leading worship at the Pastor's prayer gathering (which happens once a month)

Saturday - teaching soccer to young boys in the AOG Church's Compassion program every 1st and 3rd week of the month

REVIVAL CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to frequent changes in the weather and flooding in Thailand this season, there are many houses and roads in the mountains in Chiang Rai that have been flooded, closed, and affected by landslides. Therefore, Pastor Surachai from Chiang Rai (who is in charge of the Revival concert we've been planning) and our team from YWAM Ubon have decided to change the dates for the concert from the beginning of November 2011 to 13th-15th January 2012. By this time, the roads should be open again and the flooding gone down. This will make planning more convenient and also enable more people in the hill tribes to travel to the concert venue. We still ask for your prayers in everything that has to come together for this concert to take place, in finances, safety and God's provision.

For more details on the concert, please follow this link to see our blog
<http://heartofisaan.blogspot.com/2011/02/revival-worship-camp-in-chiang-rai.html>

DTS IN UBON?

DTS stands for Discipleship Training School, and it is the 6-month YWAM school that I attended in my first year in Thailand. Noom and I, along with our leader Josh Naidu and his family, have had the dream to start a DTS in Ubon for Thai/Lao people for many years now. We have now all finally been able to settle in Ubon and start planning. The DTS will start 7th March 2012 and we are aiming to accept somewhere between 15-20 students. Noom and Josh will lead the DTS together, along with a team of volunteer staff from YWAM Ubon and YWAM Khon Kaen.

How does DTS work? DTS is split into two phases: 3 months of lectures and 3 months of outreach. In Ubon we are planning to split it up into a week of outreach at the end of each month of lectures, and then 2 months of outreach to finish the course off.

Why is DTS beneficial? DTS teaches about our personal relationship with God and then gives the chance to put these teachings into practice. We aim to help new Thai Christians to learn how to hear the voice of God, how to determine His calling on their lives and step out into leadership, and how to find their identity as a Child of God no matter where they have come from. There is teaching and opportunity for inner healing for those who have come from painful backgrounds. The students also have the chance to learn about topics such as healthy relationships, true worship, evangelism, discipleship, leadership and many more.

Noom's heart to be part of starting a DTS in Ubon comes from his own experience, as his DTS was the place where God touched his heart and transformed his life. During Noom's DTS is where he decided to turn away from his background of gangs, alcoholism, drugs and women. *There are many other people in Thailand and Laos who are still caught in these webs of darkness.*

Would you like to be involved with the first ever DTS in Ubon? As you can imagine, there are many challenges and expenses involved in taking care of these students for 6 months. They are asked to pay 25,000 baht (about \$850) for the school, but many students can't afford this and come in faith that God will provide before the lecture phase is over. Please contact us or Joshua Naidu (acts29thenaidus@yahoo.com) if you're interested in joining a prayer list, sponsoring a student, supporting a staff, or giving financially for the running costs of the DTS.



^Photos from the Chiang Rai DTS that Karis did and Noom staffed ^

FINANCIAL UPDATE

We have decided to send a short update of how we are going financially and where the money from our financial supporters has been going. We know the statistics below will change dramatically after we give birth, and please note that these statistics were taken last year and are very rough, but we would like to update you all on the last couple of years before the baby comes. After that, we hope to send an update like this at least once a year (for accountability purposes and also for anyone who wants to know!).

AVERAGE EXPENSE STATISTICS

MINISTRY (also comes under PERSONAL at times)

Food 15% (roughly 7.5% ministry, 7.5% personal)

Diesel/Petrol 14% (roughly 7% ministry, 7% personal)

Offering (other ministries, gifts) 11%

Accommodation and bills (rent, water, electricity and internet) 9%

Others (appliances, family times, teaching, other living expenses for the boys etc.) 17%

PERSONAL (also comes under MINISTRY at times)

Misc (toiletries, phone bills etc.) 13%

Family (dates, fun times together) 2%

Bank fees (overseas transfers) 1%

Emergency (health, unexpected fees, car maintenance etc. - also comes under ministry expenses) 13%

Government (visas, license renewals etc.) 5%

Note – Because we have opened our house for others to live and take care of them financially, it is hard to say what expenses come under “personal” (Noom and Karis) or “ministry”, especially with food, rent and bills, and diesel or petrol. Because of this, we have roughly estimated by giving half to personal needs and half to ministry.

At the moment, we go through almost 40,000 baht every month (around \$1,300). This covers all our needs as well as all the needs of the 4 boys who live with us. The amazing thing is that we receive 20,000 baht (almost \$700) of committed financial support each month, which is half of our expenses each month, but we have **never** run out of money. This is a huge praise point and a miracle for us in our journey of walking in faith, and we hope and pray that this encourages you all in whatever trials you might be in at the moment, that God is a God of Provision and He will never let you down.

Thank you so much to all those who have faithfully supported us and our ministry! Thank you also to those who send us donations every now and then - because these donations always come at just the right time and always seem to be the right amount to cover the rest of our monthly expenses. **Thank you thank you thank you** to all those involved!

PRAYER POINTS

1. Preparation and provision for DTS - especially in Noom's new role as DTS co-leader.
2. God's continued protection and provision in the remaining 2 months of pregnancy and having a new member join our family :-)
3. Our relationship with each other and God.
4. For Pedro, Ice, Sek and Top's relationship with each other and God.
5. For God's provision of a sound system and other expenses in order for us to be able to run the revival concert in Chiang Rai in January (and also to enable us to do similar concerts and outreach events here in Isaan).
6. For our new ministries in the community and local churches - that God would touch the hearts of children and their parents (and other onlookers) as we do activities in our Baan Don Kae Community, and also that God would touch the hearts of the Isaan village people who attend the Good News Church that we lead worship in (that God would use us to show them of His love for their culture and that they would throw away “religion” and take up “life in God”)