

Dear Family & Friends,

Greetings in the Lord from Chiang Mai, Thailand! As we prepare to enter a new year, our family is having many *new* experiences as we settle in to life in the “Kingdom of Smiles.” Here’s a brief overview of the past few weeks.

Shortly after arriving in Chiang Mai on December 9, we began looking for a house to rent. With the help of fellow TCM missionaries, Genesis and Verna Maraats, we quickly found several potential homes. After about 4 days we moved into a partially furnished house located in a primarily Thai neighborhood. Thanks to the small size of our *muubaan* (housing village), our kids can freely play outside and we’ve already met several of our new neighbors, such as the Vandemoortele family (which is not a Thai name, by the way). Peter (who is Belgian), his wife Noina (a Thai) and their 4-year old daughter Amelie (who speaks Thai and English) live just down the street from us. Our kids love playing with Amelie and we’ve become friends with Peter and Noina.



Eating lunch with Peter, Noina & Amelie

A real provision of the Lord was a vehicle for our family. We prayed to find something under \$10,000 and God answered with a low-mileage, 4-door pickup for \$8200. Learning to drive on the left side of the road and shifting gears left-handed has certainly been a new adventure!



Our first Christmas in Thailand

On Christmas day the Maraats came to our home, along with Ching, a Filipina nanny and friend of the Maraats, our landlord, Thanagorn (whose nickname is “M”) and his fiancée, Naam. It was *new* to celebrate Christmas in 75° weather without any turkey, but still a blessing to be with friends as we rejoiced in the birth of our Savior. What’s more, we were able to share with M and Naam why we celebrate Christmas, a holiday known only by name to many people throughout Thailand (read this [Time article](#) for more info).

Here are some things you can be praying for in the coming few weeks:

- Continued growth in our friendships with Peter, Noina, Thanagorn & Naam and that their hearts would be open to the Gospel.

- The full adjustment of our children to our new life, especially Matthias as he enters 1st grade at Grace International School on January 5.
- Our study of the Thai language and culture at Cornerstone Language School which also begins on January 5. We greatly desire to learn the language so that we can get to know more of the people in our community who speak little or no English.



Matthias praying at Krisdadoi, a flower garden near Chiang Mai

Thank you for your faithful prayers for our family and ministry. We trust you will be encouraged and strengthened by the living and true God as you enter 2009!

Grace & peace,
Nathan & Jessica Killion
Romans 15:21

Check out our blog, [Killions In the Kingdom](#), for more regular updates and pics