

We have been in our accommodations in Chiang Mai for a full week. As we finished walking back from the Sunday night market two nights ago, about 1.5 miles each way, we discussed how we wanted to craft our weekly routine. An early alarm, an hour in the Word and journaling closed by going through our prayer list together over coffee, then a favorite walking route through the city (about 3 miles round trip), mission work on the computer, light lunch, brief rest, each of us taking turns working out on the treadmill, then after a shower any errands we need to run, dinner (Ellen is quickly becoming an awesome Thai chef!), and then a relaxed evening perhaps with another city walk, followed by Netflix and some reading before lights out. And mission / ministry / personal appointments mixed in. It feels good to be proactive in setting a daily routine.

By the way, two nights ago we had the most magnificent thunderstorm and rain. The sweet smell of a summer rain to finish a 100 degree day was quite the blessing.

We are now turning our focus to an early April trip to Vietnam. The leader of our church in VN is rapidly becoming a dear brother. We have met one of his daughters and are eager to meet his wife and the rest of the family. On this trip we will also meet with the national leaders of our church there. We will keep a low profile as this is a "creative access country" and our presence can put them in an awkward position with governmental authorities.

I must confess that I am feeling a heightened sense of joy to make this visit to VN. The leader of our church and I are both military veterans. You may remember the history of our nations. To enter his country and be received as a brother in Christ and as a friend of his family has great personal meaning.

Blessed by three teen Thai boys. We stopped at a 7-11 (they are EVERYWHERE in SE Asia) and I used the ATM. Ellen went inside to buy a couple of items. I sat down on the sidewalk steps to put away the cash from the ATM. As I thought I was through I rose to my feet and walked into the store to find Ellen. About 3 minutes later three teen Thai boys walked up behind us, tapped me on the elbow and proceeded to hand me the debit card I had unknowingly dropped to the sidewalk. I felt both humbled and grateful by their honesty. I secured the debit card and then went back to give them a reward and to say thank you one more time. We came to SE Asia and Thailand with a desire to be a blessing yet time and time again the kind people here amaze us with their gracious blessing.

A friend,

Roger and Ellen