

CYNTHIA'S PHUKET REPORT



IT TAKES A VILLAGE...a little village by a big forest, that is...

a group of misfits on an island far from home, all living in tin shacks and hoping that they will find the opportunities they never had before. Kids abandoned by their parents, old men plagued by alcoholism which hinders them from working most days. A place where what little money is made is worth gambling away, for the escape and the dream (and deception) that instant money can be made. Where food is scarce for some and deficiency is common to all. This village is the place where I desire to be most Sundays. God has opened a special door for me to be with these women and children on Sundays, and many other days if I want to visit. The

land lord of this place has shown me favour and their 11 year old daughter Faai is always part of the group that meets. The men in this village, who can work, are builders who are gone from 8-5 with only one day off a year. The door opened here through the desire of one woman to know more about Jesus. Her name is Jan. She is the one who invited me to share with others on Sundays and rounds up all the kids to come and do crafts and listen to Bible stories. They are all Buddhist. But, Jesus is moving in this place. There is no time limit on the work of the Spirit though. So, IT TAKES A VILLAGE, opening their hearts, receiving the gospel, for a spark

to start that turns into a wild fire that will change lives forever. The Klassens, the Ouellettes and I, all have opportunities each week to speak to and encourage some of the women from this village. It is no coincidence how God has connected us with them. I believe that as we love them and pray for them, that God's church will be started in this village. We hope that the Gospel seeds will fall on fertile soil and grow deep, deep roots. I am praying that we will have the privilege of seeing a transformation of many hearts and many lives here. Please pray with us for this village by the forest. Jesus was the one who showed us that his heart was



PRAY FOR BECKY AND MY FRIEND, YAA, A NEW BELIEVER WHO STILL NEEDS A MUCH DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF JESUS.



BROADWAY CHURCH STARTED HOCKEY IN OUR LOCAL PARK, WHICH HAS CONTINUED EVERY WEEK SINCE.



SOME OF THE LADIES FROM THE LOCAL CHURCH AND CELL GROUP THAT I HAVE ATTENDED

filled with compassion for those living outside the norm of society. For those displaced and impoverished. For those widowed and fatherless. This village reminds me of the heart of Jesus that I see when I read the Gospels. Pray that we will continue to learn how to love them and show them that we genuinely care for them. How to be Jesus incarnate to them. How to show them Jesus in a way that brings them to a place of clarity, able to see all the lies of Buddhism and merit making. We need to be able to present the Gospel of Truth to them in a way that supercedes their culture and ours. Sadly, Christianity is often thought of as a Western religion among the Thai. We want them to see that Jesus is not religion but life and truth and freedom.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR PRAYERS OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS. I HAD A TIME OF NEEDED RESPITE IN CANADA, GOD WAS HEALING MY HEART, ENCOURAGING MY SOUL AND STRENGTHENING MY BODY. IT ISN'T EASY RECOGNIZING HOW FRAGILE I AM. GOD DOESN'T NEED MY STRENGTH THOUGH. HE NEEDS MY OBEDIENCE AND MY TRUST. IN WEAKNESS I AM STRONG, BECAUSE I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH. MY BATTLE WOUNDS ARE STILL TENDER, BUT SO IS MY HEALER. THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE, AND THE MANY LETTERS AND WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT THAT YOU HAVE SENT ME. I SOMETIMES FEEL GUILTY FOR FEELING SO LOVED, WHEN I SEE MY THAI FRIENDS WITH SUCH A DEFICIT.

I am approaching my year two required language exam and Thai seems to be getting more complicated. Please pray for me as I am trying to meet with a language helper more consistently. I am also trying to tackle preaching in Thai. My "go big or go home" way of thinking has maybe caused me to take on more than I can chew. But, those of you who know me well, know I can't back down now :) I look forward to the day when Thai just flows out of me without the painful process my brain goes through these days. Praise the Lord for all I have learnt so far.

My team is preparing for some changes ahead with the departure of two of our members. Also, the Klassens, Ouellettes, and myself are coming to the end of our first term this August. Meaning that we are seeking the Lord for direction and confirmation in many areas. I am excited because it means that we are nearing the end of what I like to call the "in the trenches" stage. Life is focused so much around language and culture learning in our first term and it can only get more exciting and action packed from here on out.

May you experience the enveloping peace and love of Jesus, like I have, as I have learned to depend on him more, and more each season of my life.



A CRAZY BUNCH OF MISSIONARIES

MY FRIEND MARIA, A MISSIONARY WITH O.M.F. WENT HOME RECENTLY FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME.

IT WAS HARD TO SAY GOODBYE. WE GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER LAST SUMMER. I MISS HER ALREADY, AND REALIZE WHAT A GIFT IT WAS TO HAVE A FOREIGNER AS A FRIEND—SOMEONE UNCONNECTED TO MY MINISTRY HERE, WHO COULD RELATE TO A LOT OF THE CHALLENGES OF MY LIFE IN THAILAND. I PRAY FOR ANOTHER FRIEND LIKE HER.



YING AND JAN

JAN IS MY HOUSE HELP THAT I HAVE ASKED YOU TO PRAY FOR MANY TIMES. SHE IS 38 AND HAS A 15 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER IN THE N.E. I SEE HER AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK AND ALMOST EVERY SUNDAY.

I AM SLOWLY LEARNING ABOUT HER LIFE AND HER WORLD AND SHE IS SLOWLY LEARNING MORE ABOUT JESUS. YING IS 13 AND LIVES IN THE SAME VILLAGE AS JAN.

WHENEVER SHE HEARS ABOUT JESUS, HER WHOLE FACE LIGHTS UP. SHE IS WORKING NOW AND NOT ABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL. PLEASE PRAY THAT SHE WILL SOON INTIMATELY KNOW JESUS.



GIRLS TIME IS ABOUT TO CHANGE

MARCH 22 O2W SAYS GOODBYE TO AMBER AND AMANDA. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE IT HAS BEEN 2.5 YEARS ALREADY. HERE'S A PHOTO JUST FOR THE MEMORIES. WE WILL BE LOSING TWO WORSHIPPERS AND TWO PRAYER WARRIORS, AND TWO PARTICIPANTS IN ALL OUR CRAZY TIMES. BUT, WHAT THEY LEAVE BEHIND, IN OUR GIRL'S TIME, IN OUR TEAM AND IN OUR COMMUNITY IS MUCH BLESSING. AND THEIR FRIENDSHIPS AND MINISTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO BEAR FRUIT.