



The Lord is over the Waters.

This past week and a half Hat Yai has been, and still is in a natural disaster. On Friday, November 21st rain poured into Hat Yai. Honestly, as this is our rainy season our team thought little of it. We were hosting our Thanksgiving evangelism event, and many of us felt a bit bummed when students chose to stay home due to the rain. Then, as the event began, everyone's phones went off with emergency alerts. Rain was coming down faster than expected. Another hour passed, another emergency alert, 30 minutes passed and a 3rd alert announcing our area was beginning to flood. We ended the the event early and began organizing rides home. In the span of two and half hours the roads went from a little standing water to 2-4 feet flooded. Praise God every student and teammate made it home safely. However, power, water, and cell service began to go out. After a fitful night of sleep we learned some homes/roads were flooded.



Our Thanksgiving event that students had to leave early from because roads were starting to flood.

Then, to everyone's horror rain continued to fall and flood infrastructure began to fail causing the built up rain to pour through neighborhoods as well. Rain got up to 8 feet in many areas and flooded an estimated 33,000 homes and 5 hospitals. Rain fell until Wednesday causing people to have to escape to their roofs, 2nd floors, or nearby structures. On Monday non-profits, the military, and individuals began to attempt rescues but in most areas it was impossible, even by boat, until Wednesday or Thursday. Thursday tons of people were able to wade out of their homes. Some of them hadn't eaten since Friday or Saturday. Our phones have been filled with cries for help as friends or friends of friends were hungry, without needed medical care, or just plain scared. Bodies began to be found and the death toll is rising. Although the correct number of those who have passed is not being shared on the news (due to Thai politics), our friend shared with us that as of Wednesday it was around 500 but it is going to raise to be closer to 1,000.



We do want to pause and thank God. A truly undeserved gift is that all 6 of our teammates' houses have remained dry. Four out of five of our team cars and all four motorbikes are also fine and did not take any damage driving home Friday night. Being without power, running water, and cell service is such a small sacrifice. I'm grateful that the frozen food stockpile of food I had was able to help feed our team until stores reopened. On top of that we praise God we live close enough together that we could walk to each other's houses even during the storm.

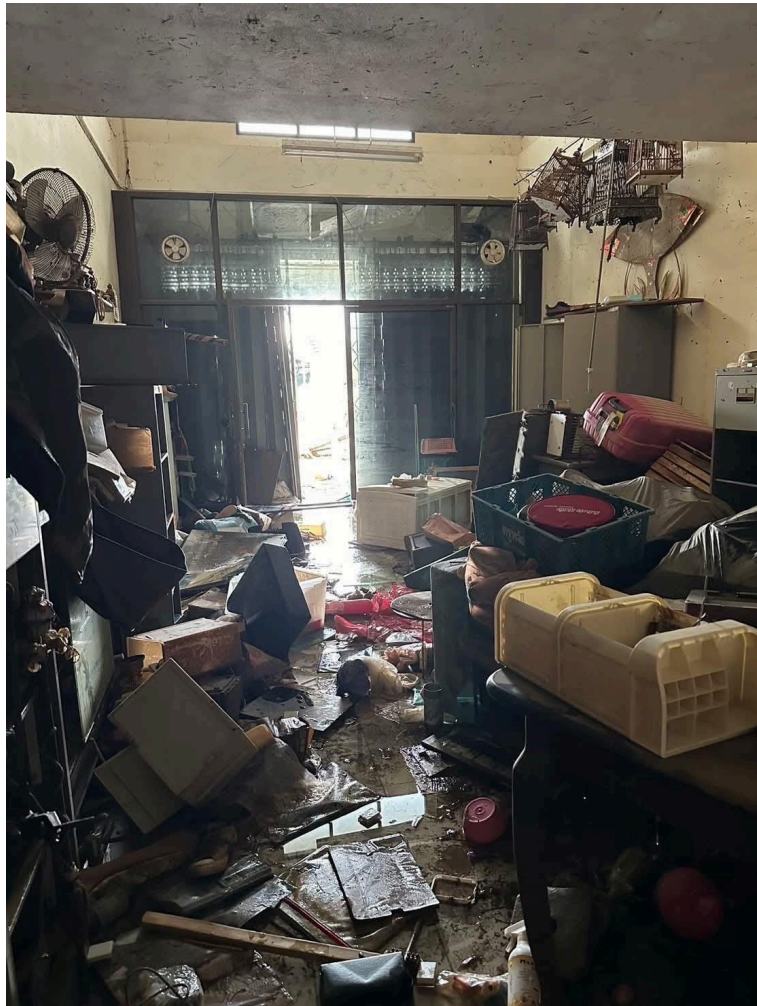


The Vang's are a family of 5 who were trapped in their home for about 7 days. They waded to safety and were able to stay with me and my roommate, Emily, in our home until the waters receded.

Last week we read Psalm 29 together. I want to share some excerpts with you.
"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The Lord is enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever. May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!"

As scary as this time has been, our team feels so sure that God has us here on purpose. A real blessing of long term mission work is we experience the highs and lows of regular life with those we minister to. Our team is now volunteering as much as we can to help provide relief throughout our city. As two of our teammates helped a Thai man clean out his home yesterday, he asked them "you believe in God right? Tell me one thing God has done for you?" Of course they gladly answered. In turn he told them he believed in god too (not our god but an idol). He said he believed in his god because god blessed his business and made him rich. Of course we wonder if his faith in this idol can withstand a flood destroying all the inventory in his store and factory.

We long to tell every person in Hat Yai who the real God is. We long to tell them that the Lord is God over the flood. No other god can save them or even provide a good explanation for why this flooding happened. Pray for us to be able to bless many Thai people during cleanup. Pray that through our physical help we can share the gospel with many new people.





Now that the waters have mostly left our area, I'm struck with the devastation it left behind. Although people are no longer trapped on their roofs or second floors, their cars and motorbikes are completely destroyed along with so many of their possessions. The floods left behind a thick coating of mud on everything. We've been filling bags and bags full of the items that were strewn all over our church and friend's homes. Please pray God would give us both physical and emotional strength, as the best way we can minister to those around us is to help meet their immediate needs by helping them clean and distributing food.

with love,
Jasmine



Thank you for your continued prayers and financial gifts to my ministry! **Please respond to this email letting me know how I can be praying for you.**

Ways to pray:

1. Praise God we are ok! Praise God our whole team and all the students in our ministry are alive and well.
2. Pray for power and water to be restored across Hat Yai. Currently the neighborhood our team lives in has power but no running water. This is very challenging as we get very muddy while we are cleaning and cannot easily shower as we have to ration water.
3. Praise God we do have plenty of food and drinking water.
4. P'Boy, a pastor I've written about before, was stranded with his 3 children for 6 days while having cancer-related pain. Once he got out he immediately went to surgery. Pray for him to take it easy and allow himself to receive help with cleaning out their house. Everything needs to be thrown away but he cannot do any manual labor.
5. Pray for strength and wisdom for our team as we try to serve the overwhelming needs presenting themselves everywhere.
6. Pray for our friends who lost so much in the flood, some of them everything: Bas and Moss, Arm-J and family, Mary and family, Chaat and Taa, Cher and sister, Derek and Bonnie, Niina and family, The Vangs, Joo and family, and so many others.

7. Praise God for our amazing student leaders who have also been volunteering so tirelessly. Pray also for their mental health as they have seen devastation first hand this week: Beam, Bas, Jew, Guitar, Nuey, and former student Arm.
8. Pray for the Thai people to recognize that it was Jesus who delivered us from the flood and come to know Jesus in large numbers.

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