



"Flood Christmas"



After so much loss from the recent flood in Hatyai, it put into perspective that our greatest possession is our relationship with Christ. This is something that can't be destroyed by muddy flood waters or lost in a storm. We got to share that news with so many students during the Christmas season. My team and I

called this Christmas "Flood Christmas" as all of our prep and planning to "get ahead" of the busyness that comes every December was postponed due to the flood. But as the familiar Proverb goes, *"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."* And we saw God bring everything together. We had our large Cru Christmas party at a local coffee shop and we were so pleasantly surprised at the turnout! It's been such an encouragement to see our Thai student leaders take more ownership of events and make the most of opportunities to share about Christ. Our student Nong Bas was the emcee, Guitar shared his testimony, and Jew helped me at the sign-in table. I am so proud of them. They are not ashamed of their faith even when they are the great minority among their Buddhist peers.

House Party





This Christmas we decided to try something new by having more intimate Christmas parties in our homes in addition to our large Cru party. At events I usually have the concern that we will not have a large turnout of students as we find students often cancel at last minute or don't respond to our invites, but with the house Christmas party I was worried that my little living room wouldn't have enough space for all the students who wanted to come! Students were excited to see how we celebrate Christmas in our homes. Our homes feel like little pieces of the US here in Thailand. It was special to extend the invite to my closest friends here and 11 students came! They got to decorate Christmas cookies, sing carols, exchange gifts, and hear us share about why Christ's birth is worth celebrating.

Jesus Can Even Calm Storms!



In Thai culture welcoming someone into your home is a very vulnerable thing. Often people will gather and get together at restaurants or event spaces and only open their homes to family. So, for students to come to our house I didn't fully think through what that would communicate. Since inviting my friends into my home for Christmas they have been open to coming over more. My friends Mel and Three are a perfect example of that. Mel has been such a sweet student to befriend. She would always make time to meet with me for lunch in the cafeteria, and since the Christmas party, she and her boyfriend, Three, have been open to coming over to my house for dinner. After our first meal together, I asked them if my teammate, Baylee, and I could study a story of the Bible with them. I was so encouraged how open and engaged they were. Then at my second time of having them over to dinner, we studied about Jesus' authority shown in the book of Mark. To see Three learning how to look up passages, turn to the correct chapter and verse, read aloud, and then share what he learned about Christ inspired my own faith. After reading about Jesus healing the paralyzed man and casting out demons we came to the story of Jesus calming the storm. Three's amazement at how even raging waters and torrential rains cease at Jesus' command was humbling. How often do I come across or read this story and take for granted that I serve a God with authority over all things! All of us have seen and been surrounded by the devastation that heavy rains can bring, so to be reminded that Jesus is in control of even storms is something not to take for granted.

The fact that Mel and Three have been to my home 3 times now and every time we've opened the Bible together is a rare and precious thing. I will reach out to

them again to have dinner and Bible study together next week! Please pray they continue to come. And the Holy Spirit continues to work in their hearts.

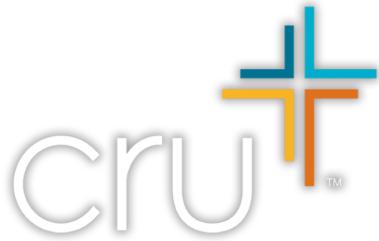
Gaining an 18th Team Member!



Living away from our beloved nieces and nephews is one of the biggest sacrifices of living overseas, so when we have a little "nephew" joining our team we can't contain our excitement! My teammates Caroline (who we call Chaba to reduce confusion of having two Carolines on the team) and RJ are welcoming little Remaldo De Jesus Garza IV into the world later this month. They have gone up to Bangkok for the birth as there are more facilities and medical resources there. Please pray for a smooth and safe delivery for Chaba, a healthy baby boy, and grace within their marriage as they become a family of three.

Thank you so much for partnering with me as God is at work in Hatyai, Thailand. I pray your new year is off to a great start!

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. That our student leaders such as Nong Bas, Guitar, and Jew would continue to take leadership at our events and be bold to share the Gospel with their friends.
2. That they would daily spend time with God and mature in their faith.
3. That Mel and Three continue to want to meet with Baylee and me, and that the Holy Spirit would give them interest and understanding of Scripture.
4. That Chaba and RJ would experience a smooth birth and their son, Rumi, would be healthy.
5. That God would equip and embolden me to share my faith and not shy away from truth and commandments of Scripture.
6. That God protects our team from spiritual attack and we unite together in grace and love for one another.

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