



Youth for Christ

March 2009

Asia Pacific

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"The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." (Job 1:21)

Dear Friend,



Nargiza and Timur with baby Benjamin

Life and death. This week brought news of both life and death in the YFC family we directly support. In Kyrgyzstan, Nargiza had a son and named him Benjamin. We have both spent some time with Nargiza as she has translated for us and now is our main contact in Central Asia for correspondence with our Russian-speaking staff. The delivery was difficult, they had to operate, but the baby and mother are doing great.

Death happened to Salai Kyaw San, one of Myanmar YFC's new youth mobilization workers. Scott went to Myanmar to train the new batch of 50+ youth mobilization workers on YFC's 3Story Evangelism. On Tuesday, Kyaw San was part of the all day training, stood over Scott's lunch keeping the flies off the food as Scott ate.



Kyaw San with YFC leaders. (intentionally blurred)

On Wednesday morning, Kyaw San woke up early, bathed, went back to his mat to pray, and died in the middle of prayers. And, so like that, it was over. He had been healthy and active as a farmer and hunter. He was 45. It came as quite a shock to Scott, the other students, and his wife.

Kyaw San had decided to make a vocation change and start working full-time for the local churches in his village helping to reach out to youth. He was very active and many young people were responding to the gospel even though they would be kicked out of the village if they became Christians. This YFC training event was his first step in his new vocation.

It is another reminder to us that the Christian life often does not make sense to us. It is not logical. It is not easy. And, contrary to what many are teaching these days, it is not about having the good life right here, right now. It is much more than that.

While it is easy to praise God for the new life of Benjamin in Kyrgyzstan, somehow, we must also praise God in the death of Kyaw San in Myanmar.

Even though things don't seem to make sense, we are so glad that God is in control and knows what He is doing. The verse, "And we know that in all things God works for the good for those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28), is not a crutch to make us feel better. It is, however, who God is and how God works—whether we believe it or not.

Thank you again for your continued support and interest in YFC and our family!

Scott + Cathren

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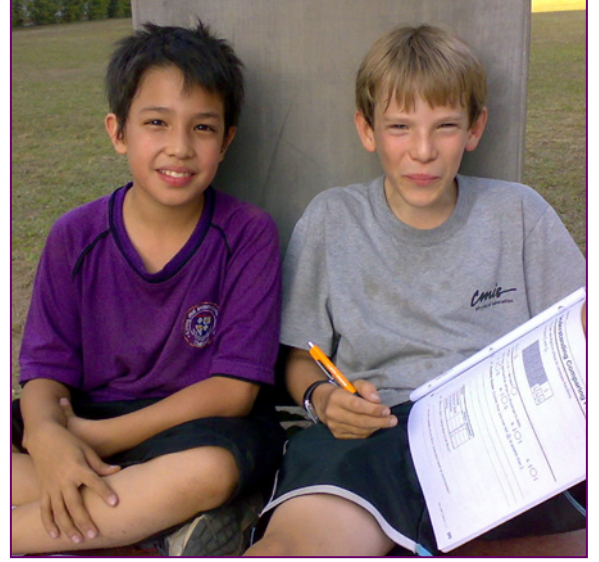
Youth for Christ 



March 2009 Random Updates

“Bruno” born in America – speaks English. However, he doesn’t speak fluently in French like his 60+ year old French father does. Nor is his mother’s heart language of Thai his own. He doesn’t want to “go to Temple” with his mom anymore as he knows he doesn’t want to be Buddhist – “I am Christian!” he says. Bruno has been meeting us at church for the past month since his mom asked us to take him. His father still lives in America, while Bruno and his mother live with his ailing Thai-only-speaking grandfather here in Chiang Mai.

“Bruno” has had a difficult adjustment to fifth grade this year – we would say a difficult and very grown up year full of ongoing transition. Paul and “Bruno” have been friends since almost day 1 of 5th grade. We met his mother shortly after the beginning of school and have been slowly building a relationship with her also. We met “Bruno’s” father at Christmas as he spent about one month here --- the first time to see his wife and son since July 2008.



Bruno’s life seems rather complicated to us – yet his life isn’t that different from many others we meet here in the English speaking international community. Bruno represents a very unique, growing, and often overlooked population of children and their parents. As our family lives here in Chiang Mai – we continue to be drawn into the delicate and culturally complicated lives of people like Bruno and his mom.

Please pray for each of us to have wisdom in our spoken words and discernment in our listening and involvement.



In our July 2008 newsletter we shared about Wat. He is one of the ones who drove the song taow for our FMC mission team and shortly after chose to follow Christ. In August he got a more dependable job as he began driving for a local hotel. Wat learned that the hotel decided to get rid of all their Gideon Thai-English New Testaments. He asked if he could have them, and he was able to donate them to us for Thailand YFC. Pretty cool!

We still see him reading his own Bible when he occasionally drives for us. Weekly, he drives for all the kids in our neighborhood for Youth Group Bible Studies and events. Our next-door neighbor is from Indiana and he is fluent in Thai. He has recently begun spending time with Wat in a discipling relationship. Please join us in praying Ephesians 3:14-19 for Wat pictured on the left in the picture here.

As we shared on the front side, Scott visited our YFC team in Myanmar last month to meet with new Board members (pictured to the right below), meet with leaders within the Myanmar Council of Churches, check on cyclone relief results, encourage and equip the new National Director, encourage and spend time with our Yangon and Bago staff, visit with local pastors in Bago and Yangon, and conduct some training with the new youth mobilization workers (pictured on the left below and intentionally blurred).

YFC in Myanmar has a new leader and Scott is helping him to communicate better with existing supporters and reach out to get more partners.

