

Thailand Update

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ISSUE TWO



A New Year

I was blessed to start off 2009 deeply refreshed from my recent visit home just before Christmas. I made it back just in time for Christmas with the children. It was such a blessing to see them so happy.

This year marks my 10th year since coming to Thailand to work at Agape Home. It sounds like a long time, but things change so much from year to year that it only seems long in retrospect. . . When I began, I often wondered why God would choose me for something like this. Now I'm simply grateful that He did.

Sad Goodbyes

Soon after Christmas one of our 6 year old boys passed away, turning our joy to sorrow. We knew Kawik was a special little boy from the moment we met him in the government hospital. He was a chubby little guy with a high pitched squeaky voice. Much of the time he was with us he had to be on oxygen, so he usually couldn't stray far from our medical room. He would sit on the upstairs balcony and watch the other children play during afternoon playtime. Earlier in the day we

could often hear him singing worship songs that he made up.



One of Kawik's most prized possessions was his faith in Jesus. He would talk often of how he wanted his father to know he was a Christian. His father had just been released from prison only a few months before.

His father finally did come to see him not long before his death. One of the first things he asked his father was why he didn't come back for him. At the funeral, we could plainly see the look of regret on his father's face.

A Time of Need

Agape Home has been seeing financial struggle along with the rest of the world. Our home runs on monthly sponsorship commitments. As the sponsorship has dropped off considerably, we have been running at a deficit. What this means is that we are having to use our reserve funds.

Agape Home was God's idea, so if He wants our home to continue, I expect He will come through for us somehow. For now, we have had to cut back on staff which, unfortunately, means a decrease in the quality of care we can give the children.

Something Stirring

Over the past four months God has begun giving me some intense prophetic dreams. The common theme

involves doing the impossible, or things beyond my capability. One obvious thing I noticed is that none of them have to do with Agape Home.



I had the sense when I began this work that this would not be permanent. I also didn't expect I would be here ten years.

Along with this work, God has always burdened me for children enslaved in human trafficking, specifically within the sex slave trade. Over the years God would stir it up in me from time to time, but would never give any specifics as to what it meant for me.

Well, it seems one of these dreams was very relevant in that it involved me rescuing a girl from a brothel.

While I don't know what God is up to, what this could mean for me here is a bit troublesome. Several years ago God took me through a time of struggle to remind me of His priority in my life. It was during that time that I conceded that I would leave these children to follow Him wherever He might lead. So what is all of this leading up to? I guess only time will tell.

Right Now

These days I continue as before. My days still involve a time of intercession for the home and children, helping with administration, and spending time with our older children every afternoon. I continue to be deeply blessed to be loved by these children. I'm also blessed that faithful and compassionate friends like you are sending me. Whatever God may choose to do with me in this life, I'm so deeply grateful for you. Thank you.



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