

Theron & Nicola⁺¹



MERRY CHRISTMAS from Chiang Rai, Thailand! We woke up this morning to some Montana summer weather and had breakfast with the team in our shorts, t-shirts, and flip flops. Doesn't feel too Christmassy although there is still something special about this day! It doesn't matter what country we are in, if we spend another traditional Christmas with our family or we are just with friends this year, the reason is the same. What a precious gift God would give us – His only son Jesus, to come and set right what went so wrong in the garden all those years ago. We praise God for his sacrifice and for showing us in the most tangible of ways, a love that is far greater than we can ever repay or fully understand. Today we thank God for His grace and patience in our lives.

A couple of weeks ago the School of Worship lecture phase came to a close as we graduated all 8 students. What a blessing to see the transformation in their lives, not just physically in their skill as worship leaders but also spiritually as God taught them and molded them a little more into His image.



L-R: Our students enjoying the Fall • Thanksgiving meal at our house • Theron & the turkey • Some students and our staff Cinthia at our graduation dinner • The staff and Douglas at our graduation dinner

And now we are in Thailand with 7 of our lecture phase students, plus the husband of one – we are 10 adults + Vienna. The journey here was long but went pretty smoothly. Vienna is doing GREAT! Jet lag took about a week to get over. After spending a couple days in Bangkok having an orientation and introduction to the culture, Nicola and Vienna flew up to Chiang Rai while the team took the 13-hr bus (by then Nicola and Vienna needed real beds and some more space to get into a routine and recover from 4 days of intermittent sleep and physical exhaustion).



L-R: The Olsen's in Chiang Rai • Our dorm housing • The prayer room we are running 3 times a week • teaching on worship at a school

We are now settled into our new home in Chiang Rai (northern Thailand). Here are a couple stories by our contacts of ministry things we did with them last week:

“The other night a team of 10 YWAMers and us were in a coffee shop owned by a Thai friend of ours. We were there to sing Christmas Carols for her customers but there weren't any. So, we gathered together with the staff – who all are Christian and all sang together. Finally some customers did come, but because the owner didn't want to stop worshipping she told the customers they were not open for business - this happened several times. Usually the owner works every day and never stops – this time God broke through.”

“On the 23rd we were invited to share Christmas songs for an English program at a Thai school. One of their new English teachers (a Christian from the Philippines) had the Buddhist kids present a little play of The Birth of Jesus – all in English. It made me a little teary to see these little Thai Buddhist kids in their angel outfits dancing around – telling the story of Jesus. We sang Santa songs and Jesus songs and explained the difference. More seeds are being planted. Please pray for Thailand.”

We are so thankful that God provided all the funds needed for us and our 8 team members to come to Thailand. We are excited for what is doing here and what we will be privileged to see in the next 6 weeks. Please pray for us – for health, safety, and boldness to share the gospel with the Thai people we meet. As well as to stand with the awesome missionaries working here long term to worship with them and encourage their ministries.

Keep updated between newsletters at www.theronandnicola.com with smaller news bites and more pictures.

Once again, Merry Christmas! May your start to 2012 be blessed and filled with anticipation for the coming year!

With love,

Theron + Nicola AND VIENNA

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