

WISHING EVERYONE
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Benjamin, Anthony, Joni, Nangsar, Rebecca, Katherine

All of us in Thailand send you our *warmest* wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We thought that we were getting some crisp cool weather up to a week ago, but this week, it has gone back to being downright hot again! I guess we can thank the people at the climate conference in Copenhagen for the erratic weather we're getting. The rising humidity finally dropped last night when we were blessed by an unexpected rain shower that pelted the countryside with what seemed like warm water!

This year, we are very grateful to have our son Benjamin back with us for Christmas. He is going to be able to spend an entire month with us thanks to his long school break. Benjamin has been living in southern California for the past two years, where he has been putting himself through school while working at the Red Lobster. Benjamin says that he can use all the tips he can get, so try dropping in on him some evening for a wonderful dining experience. As often is the case between the seasons of our lives, Benjamin has benefited from the kindness of so many people who have taken him under their wings as an extra family member. Nangsar and I want to thank all of you for being so good to Benjamin when we could not be near him.

Anthony has been here with us for the past year and a half. During this time he has been helping us with various aspects of the work. Recently, he has been invited to

work on a four part series that will highlight some aspects of the history of Southeast Asia. In January, Anthony will be moving to Singapore for five months to work on this project. While this whole thing has come about quite unexpectedly, we believe that God is behind this opportunity, and that Anthony will gain an invaluable experience from this engagement. Please keep him in your prayers, as this could result in some interesting developments and new directions in his life.

Rebecca has been teaching 9th grade English at the Dara Academy here in Chiang Mai for the past two years. Established by missionaries over 170 years ago, the Dara Academy is the oldest school in northern Thailand. Recently, Rebecca and her friend Liz, who also teaches at the same school, took a three week trip to Nepal. They said they had a great time trekking six full days through a stunningly beautiful Himalayan landscape. They hiked all the way up to the Annapurna base camp. They also were able to fly around Mt. Everest in a small plane. Rebecca has an adventurous spirit and enjoys exploring new places and cultures. Thank you for keeping her in your prayers as well. In spite of her heavy work load, Rebecca has been a great help to all of us.

Katherine is in 9th grade and doing well in her classes. This year she has started taking Mandarin at school. She is learning to say a whole bunch of things in Chinese. Katherine is on the volleyball and basketball team and she is enjoying it very much. She likes history, English, and science. For her biology class, Katherine chose to do the plant identification project, which involves collecting and classifying over fifty different plants. She is supposed to collect a plant stem, a leaf, and a flower from each of the plants, and then give a presentation of her findings at the end of the school year. I, for one, am so glad I'm no longer in school!

Nangsar continues to be the inspiration for all of us around here. She is also the one who holds everything together for us in our family. Our lives would not be complete without her love and devotion. As the year comes to a close, we have so much for which to be grateful. Our health is as good as it can be. God's work continues to go forward. All of our coworkers continue to serve the Lord in the work that He has called them to. We praise God for His goodness. All this has been possible because of your faithful prayers and support. Thank you for standing together with us. May God's richest blessings be upon you throughout this coming year!

Love,

Joni, Nangsar & Family

Christmas 2009



What some missionaries dream of during the Christmas season!