

Pray that Matt recovers fully.

PS: If you have been wondering about the lack of photos of the BNJ kids we have been asked to respect the privacy of the kids and not splash their photos all around the place. However many of us have purchased a number of BNJ calendars which we will happily sell to those interested or give as gifts. Each month has one of the kids featured.

## THAILAND UPDATES

Wednesday 7th October

The daily routine continues unabated. We still haven't had any rain so it's getting hotter but it means the work continues to progress on target.

All of the walls are now to a height that scaffolding is required to work on them. This causes some added risk. Peter actually fell through his scaffold scraping his back and various other areas and hurting his foot/ankle. Fortunately he was not hurt badly so we know God is looking after us. Nevertheless we need to take more care as the work continues.

The welders have finished constructing all of the trusses and painting is progressing well. Once the bond beam (top 2 courses of bricks filled with steel reinforcing and concrete) is completed the trusses will be able to be installed. This stage of the work is expected to commence on Friday. Given the weight of the metal and the height needed to shift it to it will be quite dangerous work so we will need to take extra precautions.

The team is getting tired but maintain good spirits especially when the daily progress is so visible. Health continues to be good generally although there are some niggles.

In the last few days Phil and Harvey have shared on the topic of faith. Phil spoke from Hebrews 11 and linked it to our own journey of faith in joining the team and passing on our work for generations to come. Harvey spoke of his Uncle who was in a prison camp during World War 2 and how his faith helped pull a number of people through that horrendous experience. His faith was also passed on through the generations in Harvey's family.

Praise points:

- Praise God that the team continues to work well together.
- Praise God that Peter wasn't hurt badly.
- Praise God that we continue to make excellent progress.
- Praise God for the opportunities to share with various people at BNJ.

Prayer points:

- Pray for safety as we work on scaffolding and especially as we start to install trusses.
- Pray for continued good weather (preferably a bit cooler) to allow us to keep working.
- Pray for opportunities to bless the people at BNJ and other locals.
- Pray for every team member to experience a new level of relationship with God.

Thank you all for your prayers and thoughts. We really appreciate your support and we are certain that your prayers help us make it through each day safely.

## Friday 9th October 2009

I must be running out of imagination as there are not many new things to write other than progress on the building. This morning we completed all of the outer walls and erected two trusses before lunch. We are very well on track and at this stage we will be able to complete some other activities we had as optional tasks given time availability. There was a slight breeze for much of the afternoon yesterday which helped make the work slightly more comfortable.

Thanks for all your prayers regarding Peter, following his fall, and for safety in general. Peter was able to work again yesterday without too much discomfort. Unfortunately 10 minutes before knock off today Matt fell through some scaffolding banging his head and neck and grazing himself quite a bit. He seems ok at this stage but will no doubt be very sore and bruised.

Progress has been great but the working week has ended on a bit of a downer. This weekend we have an opportunity to travel on the river and to ride on elephants amongst other things.

### Praise points:

- Praise God for the great progress that has been made on building.
- Praise God for the weather albeit hot.
- Praise God for the consistency and constancy of God's love and protection for us.
- Praise God for the many opportunities to experience and understand his nature more.

### Prayer points:

- Please pray for Matt that there is no serious damage to his body and that his injuries will heal quickly.
- Pray for Miriam as she cares for Matt this weekend.
- Pray for safety physical and spiritual as we travel around this weekend.
- Pray for the people of BNJ as they seek to serve God.

## Saturday 10th October – Tuesday 13th October

Sorry for the large gap in updates. Due to the vagaries of wireless internet service it was not possible to send outgoing emails yesterday. Nevertheless a lot has happened since the last update. We finished the working week on something of a downer due to Matt's fall, however he has improved since then and although stiff and sore seems to be reasonably ok.

Saturday started with a ride in a river boat to the 'Elephant Village' from there were opportunities for Elephant rides, photos with snakes, retail therapy and general relaxation in a 'cafe'. Another boat ride took us back down the river to where we started and from there we visited Ruthy's (a lady working with locals to make craft products using traditional methods and patterns to assist their income). That visit was followed by lunch by lunch and a visit to Doi Din Dang (a world renowned pottery facility). After some more relaxation and good coffee we headed back home.

Sunday saw the team split into two with 1 part heading to River of Life home for Children for

church with them and the BNJ kids, the other group went to a local Hill tribe church. Both services were very good with a mix of Thai and English. Those at the Hill Tribe church had the joy of celebrating a baptism and were part of the appearance of the 'infamous' BB4M choir singing Majesty. The locals were gracious enough to applaud our singing. After church we enjoyed lunch together before heading back to the hotel.

The afternoon was spent having massages, finding a fish farm for some ultimately relaxing but fruitless fishing and then it was back to BNJ for a BBQ with the staff and the kids. It was a great time to spend with the BNJ people to celebrate what has been done and to gain a deeper understanding of God's heart for these kids. Luke 4: 18-19 comes to mind as we seek to follow in the footsteps of Christ. The following is taken from The Message for a slightly different perspective:

God's Spirit is on me; he's chosen me to preach the message of good news to the poor, sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to set the burdened and battered free, to care for those affected by HIV/AIDS, to announce 'This is God's year to act!'.

Italics are my amplification

During the day Gary had the opportunity to look at some unfinished building at the Hill tribe church and to speak with leaders at the local YWAM base and discuss further building opportunities. The need is great so we in BB4m will be seeking God's direction as to further projects to engage with in future.

Monday saw significant progress on the erection of trusses with no significant mishaps. The expectation is that all of the trusses will be in place by Tuesday night. The block laying team was also able to complete a disabled access toilet which was on our list of optional tasks.

### Praise Points:

Praise God for his guidance and safekeeping as we have made significant progress in the last few days.

Praise God for the opportunity to travel around and to participate in different church services and experience His church in different ways.

Praise God for the children of BNJ and for the opportunity to interact with and love them.

Praise God for the staff of BNJ who give so much to enable the lads and the Mum's to experience the love of Jesus.

Praise God for the input and dedication of John and Ann who made the project run so well.

### Prayer Points:

Pray that as a team we would finish well and complete the task God has given us.

Pray that each team member would have time to reflect on what God has been saying to them.

Pray that BNJ will be a brighter and brighter light on the hill spreading the love of Jesus over Chiang Rai and beyond.