



August 2018

Dear Friends,

It has been great to catch up with so many of you this summer as we have had our home leave! We certainly brought the heat with us and we have loved being in the UK, drinking in the beautiful countryside wherever we have been, being able to speak English all the time, the lack of mosquitoes and the clean tap water. We were really thankful to be able to attend Leah's graduation in May in America, where she graduated with a double degree in English and International Relations, before coming on to the UK. Natalie has been home in the UK with us this summer for her university holiday, before returning to college at the end of this month for her last two years. Leah has stayed in America, getting a job to fund herself through law college in the future. For Joel, now aged 9, it has been a summer of mixed emotions, as he loves the experience of being in the UK and being able to communicate in English, but has also missed Thailand as it is all he really knows. He has lived there since he was 10 months old and, as he says, 'it is my normal culture'. This has brought about some interesting conversations about what it means to be a missionary child and not fully fit into either of the two cultures - one feels like home, but on the outside we belong to another. Thankfully he is an extrovert and has loved going around the churches and talking about the Place of Grace and especially helping on sound desks where he can!

It has been fantastic and moving to catch up with you, our supporters, as we have travelled to our partner churches every weekend, and it really has felt like this time we are visiting friends and family, as we have come back to some of the churches now for the third home leave. It encourages us more than you know to feel like we are in this work of God together. We have been particularly touched by the response to the prayer bookmarks we gave out last time we were home, and have been giving out this time too. As we have visited, we have loved seeing the people who have been praying every day for a child at the Place of Grace, and to have heard comments like, 'I am fond of this child with a fondness that comes from God, as I have prayed for them every day'. We are excited about the prayer that will happen for the children as we have continued to give out bookmarks, and to see the work God will be doing in each of these precious lives as a result.

It has been challenging at the Place of Grace whilst we have been away. So many of our children have been abandoned and, as staff have come and gone over time, they don't understand why we have had to go away, never mind for months. We have been sending back short DVD clips to show at the clubs of what we have been doing - visits to churches, people with prayer cards of them, interesting things like British food, countryside, animals that they have never seen etc. The Place of Grace has managed to keep going with volunteers, a temporary staff member and our two full time staff carrying the biggest burden, whilst we give what support we have been able to from here.

However, at the end of last week we had a major problem. We have a teenage area upstairs on the second floor where there is a water cooler for them to use with safe drinking water. Early in the morning, this water cooler set alight. A passer-by saw the smoke from the second floor window and climbed onto the roof to get in one of the windows to try to put the fire out. The staff were called and tackled it with our fire extinguisher and the fire brigade came too. It has caused a lot of smoke damage and there is lots of cleaning to do. Yaya and Fan were quite traumatised by the whole thing. The Place of Grace has had to be shut for the next few weeks whilst they spend the time cleaning it and replacing some of the furniture. Most of the damage has



been on the second floor where the fire was, which houses our biggest meeting room for the discipleship group and the foodbank. The damage on the first and third floors is mostly smoke damage. The landlord of the building has said he will repaint it, which is a blessing. We feel bad we are not there to help, but know that if we returned early we will not get this time back to visit our supporter churches and do the other things we need to do. Please continue to pray for the staff, the children and all those helping at the Place of Grace.

So thank you, thank you for all your love and encouragement this summer. Thank you for every one of you who prays for us and the children at the Place of Grace. Thank you for your kind donations and regular giving to us through Crosslinks, which provides money for us to live in Thailand, and your donations to the Place of Grace, which funds the work of the ministry. Without all of this we couldn't do what we do. We are looking forward to visiting the last few supporter churches over these remaining few weeks before we head back. Please pray for safe travels for Natalie as she travels back to college, and for us as we travel back to Thailand mid-September. Pray for us as we readjust to leaving family and friends and being back in Bangkok. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for all your support, which makes us know we are not alone in this work that God is doing - not only do we have such a lovely mission agency but also such wonderful people standing by our side.



PRAYER POINTS

- For the repairs to the Place of Grace.
- For the staff, Yaya and Fan, temporary helper Yan, Steve and volunteers.
- For us as a family as we readjust and for safety in our travels.
- For Joel as starts a new year of home schooling.
- For good health for us all.
- For all the children and young people who attend the Place of Grace, particularly those who are most vulnerable.
- For those young people who have become Christians, to stand firm in faith and know Jesus with them each day.

Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details

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