

Dear Family and Friends,

July 2015

It's July! How is it July already!? The past month and a half have been such a blessing as I've had the opportunity to travel to Italy and Thailand. In Italy, it was incredible to be surrounded by World Outreach Center missionaries and partners from the US, Italy, Germany, and even Thailand. By the end of our week in Naples, our group numbered 31 people including children. Being able to serve these amazing families by

spending time in fellowship with them, hearing their stories, or playing with their children, was such an honor!

They all have wonderful testimonies and hearts that long to share the love of Jesus with a broken and hurting world. Watching the Spirit of God minister into their lives and encourage and refresh His servants was so beautiful. I truly came to cherish each and every person that was there and look forward to chances to see them again in the future!



From Italy, I hopped a plane to Thailand, the "land of smiles", and can hardly believe I've already been here a full month! It has certainly flown by! For Elizabeth and I, this past month has been one of constant education. Learning the ropes on the farm. Trying to learn how to best help and pray for our host family (Ben and Susan Hoar) and their team. Beginning to navigate the rural Thai culture. Attempting to tackle the art of driving a motorbike, and even taking Thai lessons to learn basic phrases.

It hasn't all been easy or smooth sailing. There have been a number of obstacles along the way and I'd be lying if I said they were all externally or culturally caused. Most of them have been in me. But you know what? My God is incredibly patient and persistent with me. When I'm willing to let Him work me through things, the growth and maturity He brings is of far greater value than "getting my way" will ever be. And as challenging and busy as my month has been, I can still honestly say I'm having a blast!

The Hoar family have been so warm and welcoming, eager to help in any way they can and willing to lovingly correct when I've made mistakes or needed to check my attitudes or perceptions. The Thai people are sweet and friendly and willing to talk and engage and laugh with (and at :-)) Elizabeth and I as we bumble through learning and adjusting to their culture.

Thai people are very relationship oriented and it is incredible how much of an impact simple kindnesses have and how many doors are opened just by taking the time to genuinely interact and love on someone. Even just a trip to the local hardware store has resulted in the creation of a fledgling friendship. And a stop through the donut shop ended in being able to pray blessings over a beautiful expectant mother and her baby!

One of my favorite ongoing interactions has been with a little boy named Ikeam. When Ikeam's mother discovered she was pregnant, she tried to terminate the pregnancy by taking an abortion pill. When that failed to work, she began starving herself and the baby, hoping she would miscarry. Miraculously, Ikeam survived, but he was born severely malnourished and underdeveloped. Never having wanted the baby to begin with, Ikeam's mother abandoned him, leaving him in the care of his paternal grandmother.

Eight years later, despite physically disabling birth defects and multiple attacks from various illnesses, Ikeam is a vibrant, joyful little boy. During our visits with Ikeam, it is so much fun to see how smart and alert he is and how much joy and laughter the simplest things can bring him.

On our most recent visit, Ben, Elizabeth and I were able to bring him a giant tub to begin doing aqua-therapy in. Our intention is to work with him at least once a week to help improve his core stability and motor skills. I'm really excited to see how he responds to being in a (mostly) weightless environment! *Due to the early onset of the monsoon season here we really have not been able to do any equine-therapy with him, so I'm hoping this will prove to be a viable alternative.





Please be uplifting Ikeam and his grandmother, Pie, in prayer. Also, please pray with us for continued opportunities to form new friendships and live out the love of Jesus here in rural Thailand. Elizabeth and I still have a month to go here in Thailand before we return to the US. Please continue to pray for our safety and health here. And most importantly, please join with us in prayer for the people of Thailand. They really are precious and it has been a great blessing to be here among them. But they are hungry for love and fearful of so many things. They need Jesus. Please pray with us that their ears and hearts would be open to hearing about His love for them!

Thank you so much for your love and prayers and support of Elizabeth and I! Truly this trip could not have been possible without it. I have been so blessed and humbled by my interactions with each and every one of you and am so excited to be able to share these adventures with you!

With love and continued prayers,

Tíffany Golden



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