



Journey Mercies #7 – September, 2008

...And work for the peace and prosperity of Bangkok. Pray to the LORD for that city where you are held captive, for if Bangkok has peace, so will you... – Jeremiah 29:7

Greetings from Bangkok!

What a gift it was to visit with so many of you these past few months! We have recently returned from our first trip “home” to America. We are feeling more encouraged and supported than ever – Thank you! And, we are very glad to be home, here in Bangkok.

The Loop

Rain or shine, starting at around 9:00pm, young men come from all over the city to wait for clients along “The Loop.” The setting is beautiful – Bangkok’s Grand Palace, Wat Po, and Saranrom Park. Crowded with tourists by day, the only people here at night are the young men selling themselves - and the customers (mostly older Thai men) who come and cruise this “figure eight,” slowing their cars as they pass the guys who are waiting to be picked up, stopping to haggle when they see someone they like.

We’re also there, walking this figure eight, greeting everyone we see. Many of the guys ignore us. Every night a few new young men will return our greeting, interested in the foreigners who speak their language (poorly!) and who are very out of place. Some will proposition us – “500 Baht (\$15)”. Occasionally the conversation turns serious quickly – but more often it is simply the slow work of building trust over time, laughing at language misunderstandings, eating fried grasshoppers together, and simply getting to know one another.



Our Address in Thailand

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THAILAND

NEW Support Address!!!

Iven & Kashmira Hauptman
c/o YWAM Montana
Accounting
501Blacktail Rd
Lakeside, Montana 59922
USA

Please make checks out to “YWAM”, write “3588” on the memo line, and include a separate note that your gift is for “Iven & Kashmira”. Please don’t put our names directly on the check. :)

Right now we don’t have much to offer these guys other than relationship. But one of the things we are learning is that relationships with people who are safe – and the hope, encouragement and trust that comes with those relationships – are an important first step towards exiting street life and entering the Kingdom. So a couple of nights every week, from about 10:00pm – 1:00am, we walk The Loop.

Each time we walk The Loop there are a few more guys whom we know by name – like Mo and Bond, who go out of their way to greet us every time we see them, and made sure we showed them fishing pictures from our time in America – or Pry who while leaving with a customer this week rolled down the car window just to say hello to us.

Please join us in praying that as we build deeper relationships with these young men that God will be doing a new thing in their lives.

Please Ask God With Us :)

- For Thai and foreign teammates.
- For redemption to dwell on our street.
- To be freeing men from deception.
- For People of Peace: LK 10.
- For God's hand to be leading us.
- For continued Thai language growth.
- For soft and courageous hearts that are quick to obey the Holy Spirit.
- For extra grace in our small space.
- For wisdom to disciple working men into the abundant life found in Jesus.
- To be ending prostitution in Bangkok.

In America

About every 18 months it is necessary for us to obtain a new visa, what this means practically is that we recently had the opportunity to return to the USA for a few months this summer, both to renew our visa, and to visit with many of you :).

Splitting our time between the Seattle area and Northern California, we were able to visit with family, churches, ministry partners and friends. We consistently felt encouraged, connected and supported. It is truly humbling to see how God has raised up our support team around the call to love young men who are working the streets in Bangkok.

Some highlights were visiting the Pacific coast, eating "taco truck" in the Rainier Valley, taking Iven's sister on her first "real" camping trip, backpacking in the Olympics, meeting 8 new

babies that weren't in the world when we left the USA, going to a wedding of friends from our YWAM (DTS) school two years ago, getting prayed for by New Horizons, speaking at churches in Lakeport, Port Townsend, and Seattle, and sharing laughter, stories, and incredible meals in the homes of friends and family! Thank you so very, very much!

Earlier this month Kashmiria also had the opportunity to attend a five-day conference in the mid-west bringing together 200 people from 30 countries all of whom are Christians working with people involved in prostitution. While coming and going from Chicago she was able to visit with and receive specific training from Emmaus Ministries – one of the only other Christian groups in the world focused exclusively on reaching out to men working the streets.

Fishing

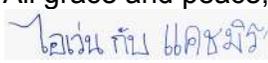
One of the expected but unconventional highlights from our time in "America" was helping to crew on Kashmiria's dad's commercial fishing boat. Kashmiria's mom and dad designed and built "Ocean" (that's the name of the boat) in their driveway when she was small and several significant years of her childhood were spent sailing and fishing in the Pacific Ocean on this boat. Like most people, Iven had never been to sea before and when we realized that we would be in America during the fishing season we jumped at the chance to introduce Iven to the Ocean.

Though Iven was not fully prepared for the uniquely uncomfortable experience of a 15-day tuna fishing trip, 600 miles off the West coast, in what is certainly the smallest boat in the entire North American tuna fleet, his main job was to stay on the boat – and he did that swimmingly. His biggest surprise was that the boat never stopped moving – and that the waves crashing against the hull all night long made him feel like he was sleeping in a dishwasher.

The fishing itself proved almost wholly unprofitable but the quality time and shared experience was priceless. Check out more pictures on our website.

Looking Ahead

The next few months we will be focusing on language for a final push in formal study (Iven is preparing with a special teacher for a government administered Thai Language Competency Exam to be taken on Nov. 29th), and continuing to pray, research and build relationships on The Loop. We look forward to telling you some of these young men's stories in the coming months, and seeing what Jesus does to love them into the full and abundant life of the Kingdom.

Thank You!!!
All grace and peace,

Iven & Kashmiria

