

รักแท้

*“rak teh” translates as
“love : authentic”
evoking feelings of real,
lasting, life-changing
love that cannot be
bought or sold.*

Rak Teh #10 – October 2009

Good News from Bangkok!!

We're pregnant!! Yup, if you don't get our email updates than we are delighted to share with you that Kashmira has made it through the worst of first trimester woes and our wee one is expected to exit the womb in early March, 2010.

Even as we're delighted and full of anticipation that our little family is growing, Rak Teh is pregnant too! This May we're expecting to birth a new urban ministry community in our little neighborhood. And because everyone loves babies I'm sure you want to know more about Rak Teh Community, but first...

Getting Out...

We'd like to introduce you to "B". From up-country, he is living in Bangkok with his mom, dad, and younger twin sisters. In the 10 months that we've known B he has worked at 3 different shops, 2 male-massage parlors and presently as a dancer at an "a-go-go" bar. B is our age, "rung-diawgan". He is bright, generous, easy to hang-out with, and he has been doing this sort of work for a long time now. So have his twin sisters.

A few months ago, on his off day, we got together and went for a big walk in the city, talking about life, encouraging personal reflection, simply hanging out. His phone kept ringing, so at one point we asked him what he usually likes to do in his free time with his friends. He looked at us, confused, "I don't have any friends," he answered blankly, "the only people I ever see are my co-workers and my customers... that was an old customer who wants me to come over later tonight...."

Our Address in Thailand

Iven & Kashmira Hauptman
c/o YWAM Thailand
Box 20 Thungsetthi
Bangkok 10263
THAILAND

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. :)*

You see, B works nights, at least 6 days a week, except when a customer decides to take him away as a private boyfriend for a few days. He goes to work in the afternoon, works through the night until early in the morning, and then goes home to sleep for a few hours before waking up late and going back to work.

Last week we (I&K) took the train out of the city. Traveling through the hills, so peaceful, green and fresh, we reflected on how much energy it takes to simply be in the city, but how easy it is to forget that until you leave. We noticed that when a person is surrounded by a particularly difficult environment for a long time, they might remember what other places are like, but forget that it is possible to get out. Our picture of the possible is often shaped by our everyday community.

Almost every guy we meet has enough education, social skills or even work experience to get a "regular" job. But because everyone that they know is actively involved in the sex industry it is really hard for them to believe that they

could actually be doing anything else. Many of them, like B, just don't have the chance to make healthy consistent relationships with anyone who isn't "buying" or "selling."

If these men are going to exit the sex industry it is essential that they know people who are telling them that getting out is possible. These men need opportunities for healthy community – life-giving relationships that are not at all based on the exchange of sex for money, but instead affirm their God-given value and abilities.

Moving In: Rak Teh Community

So how can we respond to B's: "the only people I ever see are my co-workers and my customers?" By initiating an urban intentional community in our neighborhood, inviting others working with YWAM here in Bangkok to come and live where we live, to get to know our neighbors, and seek to express God's heart towards some of the city's "outsiders."

Rak Teh Community will be especially postured to demonstrate God's love for the homeless, men and women involved in prostitution, and our "regular" neighbors who have not yet met the Author of Life.

Please Pray For:

- Oct & Nov: USA, renewing our 15 month visa, visiting with churches, family and friends.
- Dec: The 2nd Annual Christmas Cookie Caroling Extravaganza, 1st Christmas Party for the Guys, first meeting of a scripture study group for guys.
- Jan: Helping to plan and lead Bangkok's ministry leaders in a time of goal setting and pastoral support, visit from friends, continuing on outreach.
- Feb or Mar: Baby Hauptman is Born.
- April: Adjusting....
- May: Rak Teh community is born!

Maybe this will mean opening a homeless drop-in center, or some sort of health services for the women that "work" outside our house 24-hours a day, or job training for the guys. A lot of what we'll do depends on whom God brings to help out. Please pray with us that the right team will form so that our neighbors will feel loved and encouraged to grow in their own individual journeys with God. (And maybe help babysit too!)

Yeah, we know it's crazy to be having a baby, initiating a new urban ministry community, all while Rak Teh is still just getting started, without any committed staff, and no big fancy budget. But we are confident that pretty much all of this is God's idea, and He will be faithful to see it through. Thank you so very much for your continued partnership!

All grace and peace,

 Iven & Kashmira

