

รักแท้

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



Rak Teh #13 – September 2010 – Our Plans... His Steps!

GREETINGS FROM BANGKOK (SORRY IT HAS BEEN SOOO LONG SINCE WE WROTE!)

Reflecting on these last few months (and years) we are savoring some ancient wisdom: "We can make our plans but the Lord determines our steps" (Proverbs 16:9). Recently very little ministry-wise has developed as we had planned. In the midst of these disappointments, there have been unexpected opportunities, and a bit of healthy reality-based re-focusing.

POLITICAL PROTESTS = NO SUMMER INTERNS

Sadly, the interns that were planning to join us from University Presbyterian Church this summer were re-directed to serve in another country, due to the extreme political unrest unfolding during the weeks leading up to their departure date (it was a wise decision given the situation). The good news was that not hosting the interns opened up several other doors including...

SOUTH AFRICA

In June Iven received a *very* last minute invitation to join the MST Project (a ministry reaching out to male *customers* in red-light districts) on an all-expense-paid two-week outreach in South Africa during the Soccer World Cup. Completely uncharacteristically (it usually takes us forever to make decisions) we both agreed he should seize the opportunity to serve, and 28 hours later he was boarding a plane headed to Africa.

Iven felt God's nearness through the whole trip. Right out the door he had his first-ever repeat Bangkok taxi driver on the way to the airport (really great intentional conversation about prayer), and later he was able to meet several times with a South African gentleman who confessed that he used to solicit male sex workers (that's what you get when you mix Rak Teh and MST Project!) Iven even got to experience his first mugging – a bit frightening, but in the end it served to teach the whole team some valuable lessons and draw them deeper into prayer!

OUR TEAM OF FIVE

Back in Bangkok, our new teammates Sam and Pat are really a blessing to the ministry and personally to our family. Not having the interns here these past few months has created a lot more space for us to be meeting regularly as a team to pray, talk, vision cast and go out to connect with our neighbors together.



Please Pray For:

- Wisdom & Teamwork & Fruitfulness
- Transformed Lives Among Our Neighbors, The Guys, The Homeless
- Our City: For Shalom
- Abiding in Jesus

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. :)

GLIMPSE INTO OUR WORKING FAMILY LIFE...

Now, 6 months after the birth of our daughter, we're starting to acknowledge some of our limits and settling into the reality that as God has led our family to grow, it doesn't surprise Him that someone needs to care for Izayla, and it doesn't disappoint Him that we are no longer able to both work full-time.



That said, we do love that Izayla is able to join us for so much of our work. What does this look like? These past two weeks Iven has been walking along side one of our homeless neighbors (and friends) who is just figuring out that he has alcohol induced liver disease. Iven, Izayla, and our friend spent hours

and hours going from government office to hospital to social worker to government office to hospital. Dad caring for baby doubled as a tool for effective advocacy - in no time our little girl, dressed in a cute Thai outfit, engendered not only smiles and much better service than the homeless usually receive from the government office workers but also

gave them cause to get out cell phone cameras and take videos! Who knew that our daughter's "social smile" was going to make her such an effective social worker!

FAMILY VISIT ROUND 3

In August Iven's Dad and seventeen-year-old sister, Ally, unexpectedly had the opportunity to come and meet the darling Ms. Izayla. It was 3 lovely weeks of misadventures, meals and taking photo after photo after photo of our giggly girl.

THAI STUDY REMIX

Also unexpectedly, Kashmira seized a last-minute opportunity to crash an intensive Thai study class focusing on parables from Jesus. Between pregnancy and brand-new baby care, Kashmira felt her language has gotten a bit lazy and this has been a wonderful time for her to brush up on her Thai skills, growing in confidence as well as ability. This also means that Iven and Izayla are getting a whole lot of quality Dad-daughter time and that between transit-time, study, homework and sharing childcare our lives are extra full!

"WE CAN MAKE OUR PLANS BUT THE LORD DETERMINES OUR STEPS"

Pretty much nothing in these past four months has developed as we thought it might! But, we are enjoying almost everything we are involved in, working hard to be faithful to our responsibilities, and feeling God's nearness in our team and work. Izayla is a delight - she is working on cutting her second pair of teeth (not so fun), super social, interested in everything, sitting up and very nearly crawling. Check out more pictures of little Izayla and some other stories we couldn't fit here, in on our blog: www.ivenandkashmira.info. Thank you so very much for your prayers and partnership - it is through your support that we can serve!

EXPANDING VISION, SAME NAME

Since moving to our neighborhood 2.5 years ago we have experienced a tension between our explicit plans - loving young men involved in prostitution - and the divine tug on our hearts to also be consistently involved in the lives of our other neighbors, especially those who are homeless and the women working on our streets.

Recently we've been struck by a rather novel idea: what if it's ok to simply love our neighbors, and not worry too much about whether or not they are specifically a guy who is selling or a woman, or simply homeless?

Rak Teh is still loving men involved in prostitution - but our identity is shifting from a "male prostitution focused ministry" in two neighborhoods to a "neighborhood focused ministry" with some very special neighbors. If you want to know more check out our blog for a longer explanation www.ivenandkashmira.info.

