

THE JOURNEY

NOVEMBER NEWS FROM HERE - LU & THE KAREN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



FRUIT OF OUR LABOR

October is the month for Thai holidays. Taking advantage of their availability, a few of our alumni gathered for a weekend retreat at a resort (of sorts :-)) not far from my home. On Sunday afternoon, they stopped by for a few hours of snacking, catching up... and hugs. It was pure bliss for me...and a soul warming time for all of us.

Though, I don't see them often, I do usually know about any big "goings-on" in their worlds. They tend to keep good touch with one another...and I get the scoop. But nothing beats the face-to-face chance to visit.

Several are looking for new and different employment options – and I am blessed to hear them refine and define their understanding of self and their place in God's work world.

One, a single woman, is building a home! Now three years into her established place of employment, she took the plunge on a 40-year mortgage - gulp!

Another of our alumni has spent the last 18 months looking for ways to turn around the consequences of an infection that rendered their toddler unable to walk. Heart wrenching...and full of perseverance!

Difficult to hear, was that each of them, apart from one, were finding their church experience to be lacking good teaching, stimulating fellowship, and spiritual encouragement.

This accentuates their desire to continue their relationships with each other – and their commitment to remind one another to remain steadfast and unmovable, remembering that their own labor is no useless endeavor. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

I'm praying for our KLDP alumni - and I would love your prayers for them, as well.

BEING BACK IN CHIANG MAI...

After several weeks of travel (for the KLDP)...and then two months of staying with and working from my dad's house in Carson City...it's good to be back.

Good, in that it's beautifully familiar – I love my work and my people.

Not so easy is the humidity. My auto-immune problem is surfacing – having had two blisters forming deeply in my neck. I have a medication for this – and I am grateful that it's just these two for now.

We should be s-l-o-w-l-y working our way into cool, dry season. This will help my body and it is (even though it includes Christmas) my favorite time to be here.

Keeki, our KLDP Director, and a founder of our program has been under great stress. Her father, a lovely man with a history of faithful ministry of sharing the gospel all through the northern hills, is quite ill with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Earlier in October, he got Covid... and he has not been the same since. Her mom, who has a history of emotional instability has not done well with all these changes.

In Karen culture, the oldest child is responsible for the care (financial and otherwise) of their aging parents. Keeki is the oldest of two. To help her gain some breathing space during these troubling weeks/months, she will be taking a few months off to focus on the needs of her family. Please pray for Keeki...and for Pang, as she takes up the bulk of Keeki's KLDP responsibilities. I, too, will be stepping in to share the load. Some things will (and can) be put on the back burner until Keeki is able to join us again. Your prayers are so valued by us.

A BIKE FOR NAPO

Our students need motorbikes to attend their respective universities (3 different institutions between them). This need is something we ask our parents to provide for their child.

Parents often work out an arrangement with family members, several chipping in, to help them provide this asset for their child. Occasionally, the situation of the family cannot make this happen. One of our juniors is in this situation. For the last two years, Covid made this okay. Classes were online and campus visits were rare. This year, various classmates and staff have helped her get to school daily. Her school is near the KLDP campus – but not a walkable distance. Also, no other KLDP students attend there. However, this semester her program requires her to do outside visitations all around the city. So she is in need of her own transportation. We haven't budgeted for the purchase of a motorbike this year – but we need to get one for her. If you are interested in helping us buy NaPo a motorbike, please email me and let me know. The cost for a used bike is about \$800. This should include taxes and registration. (PS. the pic below is NOT the bike we are purchasing...but an idea of what we would buy.)



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