



Every time I read the book of Nehemiah, I am repeatedly fascinated with the striking example of what can be done by ordinary, inexperienced people who work together to accomplish an incredible task for the Kingdom of God. The men and women that built that wall were not experienced block layers. Some of them were the equivalent of our contemporary evangelists, bishops, jewelers, pharmacists, politicians, preacher's daughters, shopkeepers, and other occupations that were unrelated to wall building. In addition to this, they endured the extra difficulty of trying to use their construction tools while also hold-

KINGDOM BUILDERS

ing their defensive weapons. They also needed to keep checking the surrounding neighborhood for the enemy as they mudded-in each rock, in order to be prepared for battle at any moment. The enemy looked at the wall-building crew and mocked them, deriding their project as being so poor that even a fox walking on the wall would cause it to crumble. In spite of the scorn, this astonishing work force were able to accomplish their goal in just fifty-one days.

As I have had the opportunity to work with the faculty, staff and ministry workers of IGo, I have a similar sense of awe. Each one of the people pictured in this newsletter have been strategically placed by God into the building process that God has called IGo to in Asia. It would be the sincere desire of all of us that you would pray to the "Lord of the Harvest" on our behalf. We long to be faithful in building the Kingdom of God in Asia.

~ Val Yoder



TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITY

WHAT'S INSIDE?

• Staff Pictures

• Rejoice - In what?

IGo FACULTY & STAFF

The faculty and staff of IGo are the ones primarily responsible for the training and oversight of the IGo students. Each of the faculty also oversee designated ministry programs which are listed throughout this newsletter. We are grateful to the Lord that most of the personnel involved in these ministries are IGo alumni of past years.



Val Yoder
Administrator, Instructor
Delight, Sharilee and Shanna



Rick & Renita Rhodes,
Assist. Administrator, Instructor
RaVonne, Riley, RaMont, Reid, Rodney,
Reggie and Rylan



Delight Yoder
Secretary



Lavon Slabaugh
Mens' Dean



LaRonda Schrock
Ladies' Dean

FELLOWSHIP FACILITATORS

Language study continues to be the main focus of our Fellowship Facilitators. They plan to mentor new Christians in developing native leadership for Thai churches. Some are engaged in Bible studies in various communities and friendships are being built.



Lee & Joyce Mummau
Pastor, Instructor



Pastor Kiat & Amphan
Luksanasakulchai
Thai Advisor, Thai Instructor/Cook
Nueng



Dru & Lisl Lattin
Indigenous Fellowship Facilitator
Jubilant and Havilah



Duff & Kathy Browne,
Indigenous Fellowship Facilitator
Heather and Sarah

ENGLISH CENTRE

This past summer the English Centre has been able to expand into a second bay right next door to the original one. This has allowed them to better facilitate an enrollment of approximately forty students. They have been blessed with meaningful contacts with local neighborhood people, as well as opportunities to share the Gospel with various nationalities.



Arlin & Kayla Beachy, Isaiah
*IGo English Centre Director,
Instructor*



Kimberly Eshleman
IGo English Centre Teacher

RANSOM MINISTRIES

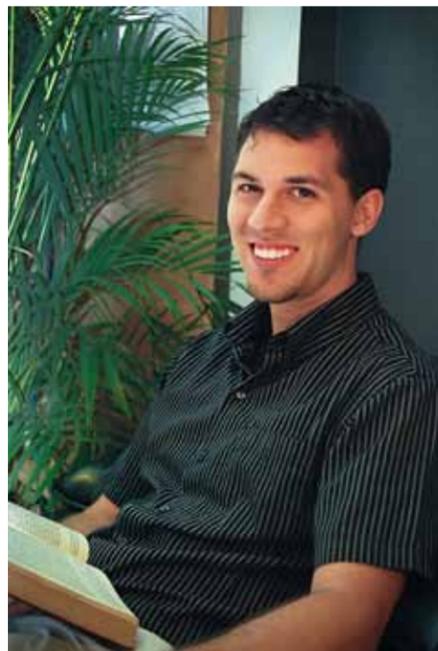
The Ransom Ministries team continues to reach out to the women in the red-light district of Chiang Mai. The radiance, purity and love of these staff ladies creates a dynamic invitation for those trapped in slavery. Ransom Ministries recently leased a building located on a street lined with bars where they are setting up a center to reach these women.



Deaniel & Katrina Yoder, Caden
*Ransom Ministries Director,
Ministry Trip Coordinator*



Naomi Swarey
*Ransom Ministries Personal
Worker*



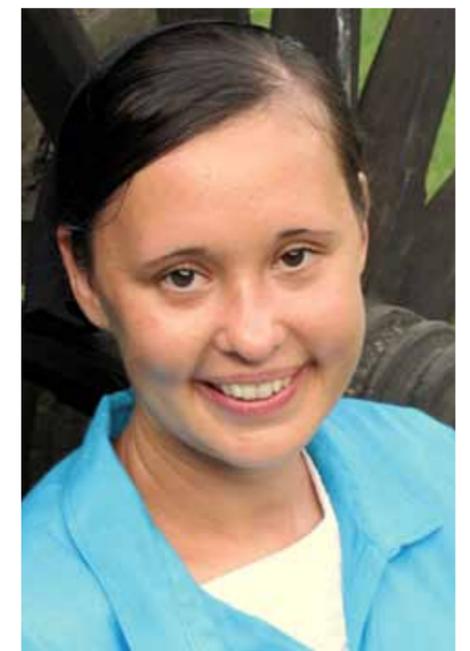
Michael King
IGo English Centre Teacher



Mairi Bergen
IGo English Centre Teacher



Heidi Gingerich
*Ransom Ministries Personal
Worker*



Rosa King
*Ransom Ministries Personal
Worker*

MACEDONIAN TEACHING MINISTRY

MTM is actively working to equip native pastors throughout Asia to reach their own cultures and people. The opportunities more than double the ones we can facilitate.



Raymond & Naomi Burkholder
MTM Director, Instructor/Weekend Cook
Jana

VICTORY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The students and teachers at VCS are enjoying another school year. This small school was primarily established for the children of IGo staff families but has been able to minister to a few other missionary families as well.



Titus & Evie Hershberger
Victory Christian School Teachers



Melissa Weaver
Victory Christian School Teacher

REJOICE – IN WHAT?

“Pastor Rick, I find I been coming to crusade every night, but I still missing one thing. I still not saved. Tomorrow night I will give my life to Jesus.”

When someone tells me that they are ‘going to get saved tomorrow,’ I tremble. We have no promise of tomorrow. The Bible says, “Today is the day of salvation”. Every time someone has told me that they will ‘get saved tomorrow,’ tomorrow comes and they never actually repent. Thankfully, there was one exception. An elderly woman once made the above statement to me, and then the next evening when she came to our crusade and the invitation was given, she stood and gave her heart to the Lord! Wow – how exciting! All of a sudden, the effort and time that had been invested in visiting her and her husband over the years was rewarded in the greatest way possible – the salvation of her soul! I went to bed that night rejoicing.

On another day, I was out sharing the Gospel in our community. I stopped by a small shop to visit with some guys. The results of that afternoon were not at all productive! I went home like a whipped pup with his tail between his legs. The drug dealer knew Scripture better than I did, kept interrupting me when I tried to talk, and then restricted me to only using Scripture verses. I lost my patience with this arrogant man and told him to shut up. I knew as soon as the words left my mouth that I had made a big mistake. I apologized, but he was offended and was not willing to listen to me after that. I was definitely not rejoicing that night.

One day ministry is great. Souls are getting saved, the church is growing, and I’m rejoicing. Another day, ministry is not great. People are not receptive to the Gospel, I make mistakes

in my witnessing and go home discouraged. I am definitely not rejoicing on those days. But then I open my Bible and read Philippians 4:4 where it says, “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.” This is a good verse for when things are going well – I can easily apply that truth then. But on bad days, I’m looking for something different. How can I rejoice when I have failed in witnessing, people have mocked me, I’ve made mistakes, hurt people, and failed to represent Christ as I am called to do? But the verse is still there, “Rejoice in the Lord always”. And you and I both know that it is not only there for the good days in ministry. So how do we get to the place where we can really rejoice on both the good and bad days of ministry?

Our answer is found in Luke 10. Jesus had appointed seventy men, given them some instructions for ministering, and then sent them out.

Later in the chapter we read that those seventy men returned to Jesus all excited. They came back with the report that even the devils were subject to them. They had just had a great “ministry trip”, so of course they were rejoicing! But Jesus knew that not all times of ministry were going to go this well for them. And if they continued to base their rejoicing on the results of their ministry, they would have many seasons with no rejoicing.

Jesus’ response to the seventy was this: “Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” There it is – our reason for rejoicing. A reason that you and I have every day; our names are written in heaven.

CONTINUED ON LAST PAGE

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REJOICE - IN WHAT? cont.

At the end of a good or bad day of ministering, my response will be the same - rejoicing. Why? Because I know that my name is written in heaven. Maybe Philippians 4:4 isn't so unthinkable after all.

Placing the basis of my rejoicing on the truth that my name is written in heaven does three things for me: 1. It gives me a reason to rejoice every day, 2. It places my focus on the eternal, not the temporal - which is where I usually place my joy, and 3.

It motivates me to invest my life in the two things that last forever - people and the Word of God.

Brothers and Sisters, if your name is written in heaven, you have a reason to rejoice every day. You have a reason to invest your life in the Word of God and in people, so that they too can rejoice in something that lasts.

-Rick Rhodes



PICTURES FROM INTERNSHIP WITH CAMPASSIO IN MAE SOT, THAILAND