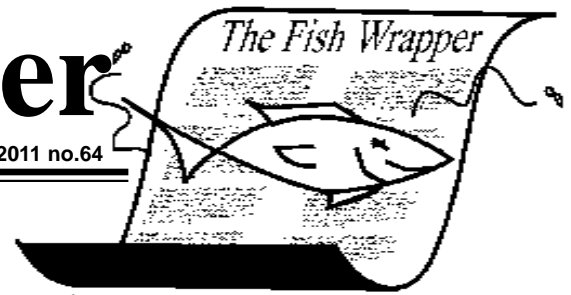


The Fish Wrapper

March 2011 no.64



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Disasters

Last night a friend of Rachel's called to say her building was swaying. Many buildings in Bangkok were evacuated because of the 6.8 earthquake in Shan state just north of northern Thailand. A good friend in Hanoi had to run out of her apartment building, so the effects were felt over a huge area, and as I write we are still waiting to hear from friends in Laos, Mae Sai and Shan state where the epicenter was. It has made us even more aware of the horrors the people of Japan have and are continuing to go through. There are many Japanese families at the children's school and last week as well as raising a huge amount of money one day with an enormous bake sale, the school community made 4000 origami cranes which were sent to the embassy as a sign of love and support.

Christmas

As usual much seems to have happened since we last wrote. Thank you for those of you who prayed about our Christmas as we celebrated in two different places. Mike and Rachel had a good Christmas day in Sangklaburi and Aylie and Jane enjoyed being at Christ Church, and then had a great day with our friends the Mountfield's. Rachel could not get into the refugee camp as she had hoped, but Dodo managed to arrange interviews with refugees who came out of the camp to meet her! Sadly on Christmas day a child was brought into the Kwai River Christian Hospital having been viciously abused, so the rest of Mike's visit was spent helping the hospital go through the correct processes to protect the child and make sure the appropriate people were involved (police, social services etc..) Sadly the perpetrator is still free at the time of writing.

The office of child protection continues to have a huge impact. They are now working with 30 schools in Bangkok alone, as well as continuing the border project working with hostels, orphanages, churches, schools and hospitals along the border in an effort to keep children safe. The more work they do the more cases come to light, some involving leaders who are very powerful. Please pray for wisdom and strength to pursue justice for victims even when staff and the project itself are threatened as a result.

In early February Jane also got the chance to visit Sangklaburi. It still feels like going home. Chrissy Muir, who has taken over the IS short term scheme, went too in order to visit current short term volunteers and also get a feel for future placement opportunities. Claire and Thomas Haymes from Christ Church were also on the trip and Jane had great fun taking them around, introducing them to everyone. By the end Thomas (aged 9) was raising his eye brows every time yet another person ran up to greet Jane! The children Dodo cares for in the family home were all doing

really well. This week Pupa (aged 13 with cerebral palsy) will be going to McKean rehabilitation centre in Chiang Mai for some intensive physio and treatment. Please pray for her as it is the first time she has been away from Dodo since she came to live with her about 4 years ago, and the first time she has ever been out of Sangklaburi.



Pupa in the Family Home

The Land of Oz

In February we had the wonderful opportunity to visit Australia. We all went for the first week. We stayed with Douglas and Alison Robertson who used to live in Appin on the west coast of Scotland but have been in Melbourne for ten years. They were very hospitable hosts and we, along with the help of Lisa and Matt and LuYee and Stuart, did some really fun things. Thank you to everyone who helped organize us and looked after us so well giving us such a good time! The second week Mike and the girls were back in Bangkok. Jane had several speaking engagements in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide, as well as one on one meetings with quite a few people interested in working overseas. It was a packed and intense week – but she had a great time! It was also really wonderful to stay with Kristen in Adelaide, 'helping' her house sit for her parents, which meant looking after the cats, dogs, pony and kangaroos – one of whom likes kisses and cuddles!!

Endings and Beginnings

Jane's life has changed quite dramatically since stepping down from IS leadership roles. She has been helping with the Karen ministry that Christ Church supports on the border north of

Mae Sot. Christ Church is involved in supporting three nursery schools in Mae La refugee camp as well as a secondary school for 200 migrant and refugee Karen kids about 60km north of the camp. Most of the work is administration, based in the Christ Church offices, and its been great to go in fairly regularly and get to know some of the other staff better. It's also nice to have an office to go to, which she then leaves behind when the work is done! For more information about the ministry you can look at www.christchurchbangkok.org and click on the outreach section. If anyone is interested in either supporting this work financially or coming as a volunteer English teacher feel free to get in touch.

The rest of Jane's time has been filled with preparing the talks for Australia and on her return preparing a series of three devotions for a mission's leadership conference this week. There is of course ongoing involvement with the work in Sangklaburi, and March is the month when new proposals have to be written for donors. On



a fun note Jane has taken up the jazz clarinet! Having not played her clarinet for 27 years it's been great to find that she has been able to pick it up and remembers a lot. The jazz is new though – and boy is it difficult, but fun!

More Drama

The children have been incredibly busy, particularly this last week. Aylie was performing and Rachel helped run back stage for a production of the musical Peter Pan. They did four performances and it was fantastic. Aylie played Curly – one of the lost boys. She is taking more and more opportunities to sing and loves it. Rachel continues to have a leadership role in both the Amnesty International and Habitat for Humanity groups at school. She was recently given 15 minutes to address the varsity boy's softball team in order to make sure that when they go to Burma next week to play softball, they have a good understanding of the political situation there! She had furiously protested them going last year, and had been promised that if they went again then at least she would get the chance to make sure they didn't go ignorant again! We are all looking forward to two weeks off over Thai New Year in April – although Rae will be kept busy doing a work placement at Bangkok Christian Hospital for one of the weeks. She has decided she wants to study nursing at university so it's important she gets some hospital exposure.

We plan to be in the UK from June 11th to August 1st. After much deliberation we have decided not to do day conferences this time. In Scotland we will have two Wednesday evenings when we will eat together, share about our work and pray. We do hope that people in Scotland will be able to get to either Aberdeen or

Edinburgh (see below for details). We are aware that many of you already meet on a Wednesday evening. Perhaps you could consider bringing your mid week group to hear about our work instead of your regular meeting! We will be based in Wantage from July 16th-August 1st and expect to have an Open House at Jane's parents' on Saturday July 23rd. Please get in touch if you can come and need directions. We will send out more details nearer the time. We hope to see many friends whilst we are back – as well as visiting universities and looking up Karen refugees who have been settled in the UK (for Rachel's research). If anyone has any Karen contacts in the UK please let us know.

Once again thank you for all your love and support. As we approach Easter may you know the transforming power of the resurrected Christ in your lives.

With love

*Mike Jane
Rachel + Kylie*

- Edinburgh: Weds June 22nd 7pm at Barclay Church. Contact person Helen Miller hmpmiller@madasafish.com
- Aberdeen: Weds June 29th at 7pm (I think) Gilcomston South Church, Union Street, Aberdeen. Contact person Heather Lyall Heatherlyall@btinternet.com
- Wantage, Oxon: Saturday July 23rd from 10am – 6pm Open House at Grove House. Contact Fucella's on jfucella62@gmail.com or phone 01235 763731