



THE PIAWONGS



**"LET US REMEMBER THAT THE CHRISTMAS HEART IS A GIVING HEART, A WIDE OPEN HEART THAT THINKS OF OTHERS FIRST"
GEORGE MATTHEW ADAMS**

What a season!

As we enter the Christmas season this year, we are thanking God for the many gifts He has given to us: very recently the gift of our son Eliyah Sartugan Piawong, but especially the gift of love and grace through Jesus.

Many have asked us what Christmas in Thailand is like. Let me give you a picture: Christmas goes on for the whole month of December. You wake up each day, an ordinary day, do your normal chores and then get ready to go out and evangelise. That morning you might be sharing in a village, in a school, or even in a public park. Last time on Christmas morning we shared

in a school. As you walk in to the school you are faced with hundreds of children, teachers, parents and grandparents, most of them wearing Santa hats and sitting down eagerly waiting to hear what the western Christmas holiday is all about. This is your only chance for the year, your only opportunity to share with freedom the gift that God has given them.

This is what Christmas in Thailand is all about - it's not a family time, it's hardly even a time of giving presents, but it's the opportunity for Thai Christians to give a lasting gift to their country.

We praise God that in this season we have the chance once again to be involved in Christmas outreach events, but God is also giving us a chance to celebrate a family Christmas as all of Karis' family comes to join us in Ubon for a week. As we all celebrate

this year, let us pray together for those in Thailand who are spending their Christmas sharing Jesus with this Buddhist land.

Read on for more news from us...



ELIYAH 6 WEEKS OLD



A busy season of teams and joys...

In the last month, YWAM Ubon has had 4 teams coming to visit, plus many other friends and family visitors. We have been visited by teams from New Zealand, Taiwan, Bangkok and Singapore (although only one of these teams stayed at our house). During this time Noom has had the chance to run and/or be involved in many events, the highlights being a YWAM Ubon Football Cup at a local field, an Isaan music outreach event at the psychiatric hospital and a Christmas celebration for all the local churches in Ubon. He really enjoyed the chance to use his gifts in soccer and music to build relationships with the teams and locals that came to be involved.

Back home, I (Karis) have been learning about motherhood! It's been hard to stay home and not be involved in the outreach events, as well as YWAM's

daily prayer meetings that have been going on at the community house in the town. But I've really enjoyed the time with my new son, seeing him grow and getting to know him more. He has struggled with a few tummy pains but apart from that he's a real joy and has been growing well and fast! At the end of December he will be 2 months old already.

Now we are spending our days getting ready for Christmas events, the outreach trip to Chiang Rai (now leaving Ubon on 1st January) and spending time as a family. We have been blessed with an empty house for 2 weeks, for the first time since getting married (since the team from Bangkok left, there's just Noom, me and Elijah at home) so we're trying to make the most of that time together at home as well.

"CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS: TO YOUR ENEMY, FORGIVENESS. TO AN OPPONENT, TOLERANCE. TO A FRIEND, YOUR HEART. TO A CUSTOMER, SERVICE. TO ALL, CHARITY. TO EVERY CHILD, A GOOD EXAMPLE. TO YOURSELF, RESPECT." - OREN ARNOLD

WE WANT TO GIVE A HUGE SHOUT OUT AND THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO SENT US GIFTS FOR ELIJAH, WHETHER THAT BE PARCELS IN THE MAIL OR FINANCIAL GIFTS. WE HAVE BEEN SO TOUCHED! Thank you a million!!!!!!

NEXT MONTH, we leave on our big outreach trip to Chiang Rai. Please be praying for...

- Elijah, travelling to the other side of the country at only 2 months old
- God's protection over our whole team (YWAM Ubon)
- Spiritual movement within the hilltribe people of Chiang Rai
- God's continued provision for petrol and accomodation money

We are planning to come home at the end of January where preparation for DTS will begin immediately. DTS will start at the beginning of March and will be held at both the YWAM Ubon Community Houses (ours is one). We will also be housing all the female students. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we adapt to this new season!

FUN WITH TEAMS...



BANGKOK SOCCER TEAM
OUT FRONT OF OUR
HOUSE



YWAM UBON TEAM
PHOTO



ACTIVITIES AT OUR HOUSE
WITH BANGKOK, TAIWAN
AND NEW ZEALAND
TEAMS



BANGKOK TEAM WORKING
ON OUR HOUSE IN THE
VILLAGE