



December 15, 2011

Dear Friends,



American Baptist Missionaries

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King! This year, as we celebrate Christmas in the US, we are reminded of Christmases past in Thailand. There are differences in the ways we celebrate...the bamboo Christmas tree...a rice stalk manger...fewer gifts, Christmas shared at church, all night caroling and a pig feast for the whole village. And yet, there is a real excitement among the Akha Christians that surrounds the birth of Jesus as Savior.

Since coming "home" to the States in June on our one-year home assignment, we have traveled extensively from Missouri to Maine, sharing what God is doing in northern Thailand with the churches here. We are also enjoying our time with family while we are here. We have been able to visit with both sides of our family and those times are precious. Our three children are all busy with their studies at university. Rachel works part-time while attending graduate classes at Temple University as she works towards a teaching certificate in high school social studies. We are sharing a home with her in northwest Philadelphia during this time until she gets married to Michael Serra on June 9, 2012. Rebecca continues with her studies at Messiah College near Harrisburg, PA and will continue in the nursing program until May, 2013. Kenny completed his high studies in May in Chiang Rai, and is now a freshman at Eastern University. His current interests include youth ministry, communications, music in worship, and extra-curricular sports.

Ruth resigned her position as principal of the Family Learning Center just before leaving Thailand in June. The school recently was approved as the Chiang Rai International Christian School (CRICS). She continues to help the school in terms of teacher recruitment and fund-raising and will likely continue to participate in supporting the school in this way. She will also continue to support the Akha Craft program and work with the STEP program (educational scholarship help for children), while also responding to opportunities to teach the Bible to women and children.

After 12 years, Chuck is looking to expand his opportunities to serve the Akha, perhaps by being more closely involved with the Fellowship of Akha Christians, composed of leaders of all the various Christian Akha groups. Chuck's focus has primarily been on Bible teaching and

encouraging the pastors. He will continue to build relationships and develop practical and appropriate ways to bring the gospel in word and deed to the Akha and their villages.

As we make our preparations to return to Thailand, we are pleased that our family members are doing so well, that our health is good, and that we have your financial and moral support to help us go back! You may have noticed that our website this fall reflected only a 60% support rate, but we are pleased to share that a number of new churches are getting involved. It is our hope for the 2011-2012 budget year to raise our support to 80% of our total target goal, and by 2013, we should be at 100% of our goal. With your ongoing help, and in God's timing, we pray that this will be possible.

We recognize more than ever that we are partners in the same mission, sharing the good news of the whole gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. Your support and encouragement to us has made all the difference in our ability to serve in Thailand for the past 12 years, and we are grateful! God has been so faithful! Please continue to pray for us as we complete our year here and prepare to go back. We pray that you would feel His presence and direction in your lives! If you would like us to visit, we would love to know. We are available between now and the end of June, 2012. Please be in touch with us!

May the joy and hope represented by the birth of Jesus this Christmas season fill your lives and ministries!



We wish you a blessed Christmas and a joyous new year!

Chuck and Ruth Fox

(pictured here with Rebecca, Kenny and Rachel)

*"...I bring you good news of great joy for all the people...A Savior has been born to you!
He is Christ the Lord!"*

Luke 2:10-11

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