



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Foxes!



December 2016

We are so thankful for the community of friends and family that surrounds us, whether we are in our home in the USA or our home in Thailand! We derive great strength from the bonds that tie us to you, and wish we could tell each of you personally how much that means to us.

2016 has been a good and full year for us. We arrived back in Thailand in January after spending 8 really good months in the States on home assignment with International Ministries. It was a joy to reconnect with so many churches and individuals who have encouraged us throughout the years, and it was also a joy to return to those who surround us daily in our ministry overseas.

***Chuck** returned to his role as a teacher/preacher and partner to the Akha Churches of Thailand (ACT), continuing to grow in relationship with those in leadership, and forging new friendships both within ACT and with other partners in ministry with the Akha. The focus for 2016 has been largely on encouraging, training and empowering the local pastors in the 45 villages where ACT has ministries. There has also been a focus on reaching the Akha youth, many of whom are being greatly affected by globalization, technology, and a society very different from the traditional one in which they have grown up. Discipleship is critical!*

***Ruth** continues to serve as a 2nd grade teacher, Volunteer Services and Hospitality Coordinator, and Director of Resource Development at the Chiang Rai International Christian School (CRICS). She also directed the Summer Enrichment Camp this year and has helped with some of the other school outreach activities. Her fund-raising efforts for the school have been a high priority due to the encroachment this year of an expressway through the school property. Ruth has*

also had some very meaningful experiences with the ACT Women's ministries and the STEP program, providing scholarships to young people for educational purposes.

Rachel and Michael continue to live in Drexel Hill, PA. Rachel is now in her third year of teaching at New Foundations Middle School in Philadelphia and is making an incredible difference in the lives of her students there. She is a gifted teacher! Michael is working on completing his book, photo-documenting the experiences and lives of those who affected by the fires in the coal mines of Centralia, PA, while also serving as care-giver to two young men with autism.

We were pleased that **Rebecca** was able to spend 5 months in Thailand this year, working with Go-Ed, a study abroad program that meets in Chiang Mai. She helped to coordinate the activities of the students outside of their classroom instruction, and was a great asset with her knowledge of the Thai language and culture. She is now back at Harrisburg hospital working as a nurse and continuing her courses towards a Masters in Nursing Education at Messiah College. She enjoys gardening, cooking, hiking and biking in her free time.

Kenny had an eventful year as his job with Liberty Church changed from 25 hours a week into full-time status. This prompted a move into the Manayunk section of Philadelphia. He works in development, events planning and communications for the church. Liberty is renovating the First Baptist Church of Philadelphia and preparing to serve the community with a variety of ministries, including a strong emphasis on meeting the needs of the homeless. He enjoys a variety of outdoor activities including mountain biking, hiking, and rock climbing.

Ruth's folks, **Cliff and Rosemary Gilson**, continue to enjoy their involvements in Penney Farms, Florida, and are glad that they made the choice to move there when they retired. Chuck's parents, **Chuck and Dodie Fox**, continue to live in their home in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. We know we are blessed that we still have all 4 of these special people in our lives! Our siblings and their families are also doing well (Ruth's - **Lisbeth, Mary, and David**; Chuck's - **Cathy**), and we are thankful.

As we come to the close of another year, and once again celebrate the coming of Jesus to this earth, we are reminded of how God expresses His love for us in so many ways. Thank you for the ways in which God has used you to bless our lives. May the God of grace and mercy fill your lives with hope, peace and joy this Christmas season and throughout the coming new year of 2017!

Blessings and love,

Ruth and Chuck Fox

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Ruth and Chuck Fox



Visiting villages-outreaches



Supporting local pastors



Preaching in the churches



Supporting students in school STEP in Kengtung, Myanmar



Remembering the King



Service of remembrance after 30 days of mourning



ACT Christmas celebration 950 in attendance



Sukkasem Village Sunday School



Sunday School sharing in church



New buildings at CRICS



Ruth's 2nd grade class



Summer Enrichment Program



CRICS Elementary Christmas Outreach at a local Thai school



Look who showed up for Ruth's 60th birthday!