

# Rosstracks



We visited a Bisu village where a Bible translation is currently taking place

## Language

We often feel like we are five years old again. There are endless signs on the road that we desperately wish we could read, some with important information that we should know. At the store we can't read the promotion flyers they hand us. Can you imagine buying a refrigerator, oven, or washing machine without being able to read what the specifications are? We are in the midst of that right now since we will be moving into a rental house in December. With our very little Thai and the salesperson's very little English, we can usually communicate on a very basic level, but it is frustrating. The good news is that we can speak Thai a little more each day. We are doing mostly full-time language learning and training through the end of the year, and then transitioning into ministry related work.

## Praises & Prayer Requests

### Praises:

- ✓ The kids all have friends
- ✓ Kimberly has recovered from surgery and infection
- ✓ We found an affordable home near the kid's school
- ✓ John's Mom arrives Nov. 11 for a 5 week visit
- ✓ We agreed to buy a car that we hope to take possession of next month

### Special Prayer Request:

We will be paying our rent for the next year up front in order to get a good discount, which leaves us with very little left for appliances and furniture (see website for list/details). Also, the baht has been rising steadily against the dollar for many weeks now, which has decreased our buying power. Please pray that we find good deals and make wise decisions.



## Language Learning Outtakes

### What we *thought* we said:

- “Can you make chicken and fried rice?”
- “I have a wife and three kids.”
- “I want a hot chocolate.”
- “I'll buy one item.”
- “We'll leave at 10:30.”

### What we *actually* said:

- “Can you make see you tomorrow?”
- “I have 3 wives and 3 kids.”
- “I want a hundred chocolates.”
- “I'll buy one person.”
- “We'll leave in 10 years.”

Of course, these are only the mistakes that have been brought to our attention, since they caused raised eyebrows and required further explanation. I'm sure we say similar things everyday of which we are blissfully unaware!

## What is SIL?

When we arrived on the field, we were transferred from Wycliffe to SIL, which does the linguistic and translation work abroad. We are also still members of Wycliffe. Now that we are out of the U.S., we will only be referring to our work with SIL.

*“I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live; even after dying . . . Do you believe this?”*  
~ Jesus (John 11:25-26)

## Travel

Visa regulations required us to take a trip out of the country. We drove about four hours north to the border of Myanmar and Laos. We also took the opportunity to visit a couple remote places where SIL work is taking place. For a more detailed version of our two day trip, see our website at [www.rosstracks.com](http://www.rosstracks.com).

# JOHN & KIMBERLY ROSS

Serving with SIL in Southeast Asia



Sarah was pleased to discover that the tooth fairy visits Asia too!

## Kids

Kristen was on the school volleyball team and she really enjoyed that. She also landed the part of Mary in the church Christmas play. Tyler is having fun playing soccer. Sarah enjoys kindergarten. They are all making friends, and are very excited about Grandma's upcoming visit.



The Wai is a respectful greeting

## Driving

We have been slowly getting used to the driving differences with no major problems. Since they drive on the other side of the road here, the steering wheel is on the opposite side of the vehicle. The turn signal lever is also on the opposite side of the steering column, so even after being here three months I am still occasionally turning on the windshield wipers when I want to make a turn.

Since we are still adjusting to driving on the "other" side of the road, we have had the occasional panic situation. A few days ago, I (John) was making a sharp turn around a blind corner onto a road that goes into a small tunnel. There were no other cars around and all of the sudden I wasn't sure if I was on the correct side of the road. If I guessed wrong, there would be no way to avoid an accident. After a few seconds, I breathed a sigh of relief realizing I was correct.



All three countries of the Golden Triangle (Thailand, Myanmar, and Laos) can be seen in this picture. We visited all three in one day!

## Housing

We just signed a lease on a house that we will move into in December, so we are in the process of buying the appliances and furniture we need in order to live there. It will be nice to finally live in a house with all our own things that we can furnish/decorate it how we want. Since our three kids all go to the same school, we decided to live in that neighborhood so the older kids can ride their bikes to school. With Sarah getting out of school at 11:30, the older kids getting out at 3:00, and one or the other often staying after school for sports, we sometimes drive to the school four times a day.

Contact information: [john\\_ross@sil.org](mailto:john_ross@sil.org) [www.rosstracks.com](http://www.rosstracks.com)