



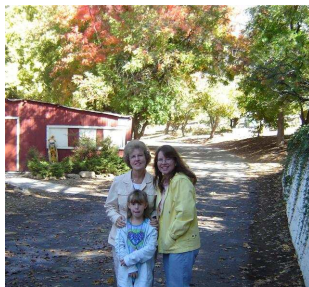
Rosstracks

December 2009

He came into the very world He created, but the world didn't recognize Him. He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him. But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. John 1:10-12

Christmas in Thailand – We are approaching our fourth Christmas in Thailand. Thais, being primarily Buddhist, don't celebrate Christmas, so we don't get to see the transformations that take place in the neighborhoods and stores that you all are experiencing now. We miss all that comes with being "home" for Christmas, but we love living and serving here too.

A Quick Trip – Thanks to the generosity of our parents, Sarah and I (Kimberly) were able to visit California for 2 ½ weeks in



Sarah, Grandma Joan & I at Oak Glen

October to attend Scott & Amy's wedding! It was incredible to be there! Sarah and I got to spend lots of quality time with family. We were sad to not have time to see most of our friends too, but found the unrushed time with family a precious gift.



Me with my Ross sisters-in-law, Darcy, Amy, & Char at the rehearsal dinner

Work/School

John – My latest trip to our training center up north on the border was very productive. A national translator from a closed country had come down for help with a number of issues. We were able to correct some formatting and print a draft of the book of Mark and I also helped him configure his translation software to print an initial draft of a dictionary for his minority language. He was very happy to be able to take these back to his people at Christmas time. The Buddhist people there are also very interested in these texts because they don't have much written in their language. This minority group has about 37,000 people in that specific area and there are only 50 Christians. Over the whole region there are close to 2 million people who speak various dialects of this minority language. I was also able to help several workshop participants install the correct virtual keyboards and fonts to allow them to type in their minority language and perform some routine maintenance on the center's 6 computers.

Kimberly – I was given the additional responsibilities of managing the office staff and facilities starting in October. I have found that this, added to my other work and home responsibilities has been a bit more than I can handle. My supervisors have been very supportive, and we are exploring solutions. Pray for me as I have to make some tough decisions.

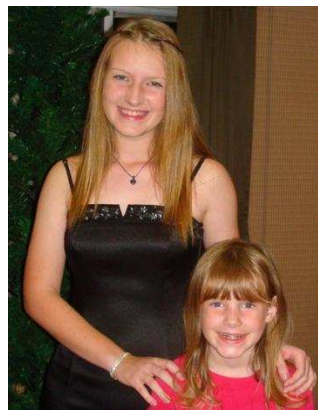
Kristen is 16 and in 11th grade. In addition to a difficult school schedule, she serves on the student council, and is now co-leading the AGAPE home ministry that she has been involved with for a couple years (where the students are matched with a buddy from a local HIV orphanage). Despite her hectic schedule, she still manages to squeeze in time for Ultimate Frisbee and guitar.



Kristen & Tyler at the Ultimate Frisbee tournament

Tyler is 13 and in 8th grade. He enjoys working the sound board for chapel at school and at church. He is not only the youngest sound tech on the rotation at church (it is usually an adult), but we keep hearing that he is one of the best too! He is really missing sports this year. He is now too old to play in the recreation leagues (4th -7th grades), but too small to make the high school JV teams. He keeps busy playing drums and spending time with his friends.

Sarah is 8 and in 3rd grade. This year has been a big jump for her academically. She spends much of her afternoons doing homework (and I spend much of my afternoons helping her). She really loves piano. Her Thai piano teacher says of her, "she has it in her heart." She also loves rollerblading (we brought these back from the U.S. with us).



Praise/Prayer

Finances – As the economy has fallen in the US, so has our monthly support. Thank you to all of you who continue to support us so faithfully in the face of financial difficulties. We appreciate you so much! Please pray for us that our support would go back up to closer to where it should be.

Medical – Sarah's orthodontic work went well. The jaw extender did its job, and now she just has to wear a retainer.

While I was in the US in October, I visited an ophthalmologist to address the ongoing problem I've had with my eye. It turns out the medicine I was given here was making it worse and not better. So now, after about 5+ months of problems, my eye is almost back to normal!

Church – Our international church here in Chiang Mai, which ministers to mostly Christian expat workers, is looking for a pastor. If you know a pastor who would like more information, please let us know!

With thankfulness for you who care about us and pray for us so faithfully,

John, Kimberly, Kristen, Tyler, & Sarah Ross

Serving with SIL International in Southeast Asia.

Contact Information:

Overseas address: P.O. Box 371, Chiang Mai, 50000, Thailand

Address for Contributions: Home Office, P.O. Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862 (Please enclose a separate note stating your gift is for the ministry of John & Kimberly Ross).

<http://www.rosstracks.com>



Sarah & I with Great Grandma Brown



Sarah with Great Grandma Ross on her 95th Birthday



Sarah & I on the California Coast



Sarah playing mini golf with Grandma Wood