

Thailand

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CHIANG MAI CHURCH PLANTING TEAM

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 3

3RD QUARTER 2023

Chris & Cara Flanders Visit Chiang Mai



Chris Flanders preaches in Thai at a combined assembly of churches in Chiang Mai.



Former Thai Interns organized a reunion with Chris and Cara at the Reagans' house.



Celebrating their 30th anniversary at MK Restaurant.

Even though Chris and Cara Flanders left Chiang Mai more than 20 years ago, Chris' Thai language is still incredible. We were blessed by his sermon.

Chris will be teaching a missions course in Singapore for a couple of months.

Carajoined Chris on a recent trip to Chiang Mai to celebrate their

30th anniversary.

Jan and I enjoyed hosting them in our home and eating at MK Restaurant. We were all excited to eat the delicious roasted duck.

Our team and the Thai church members here are excited that Chris will come back to Chiang Mai for a church retreat in September.

- Robert Reagan

Baking Together with Ton Pao Kids



Aim shows how to use the waffle iron.

Kids from the Ton Pao community, who are receiving scholarships from the Highland CoC, attended our joint worship service on July 30th. Afterwards, Chung Doi members taught them how to make waffles.

Judging from the smiles and empty plates, the waffles were delicious, not to mention fun to make. Each time the church hosts an activity for this community, it opens a

door to love them and share about Jesus.

We pray these kids will continue to do well in school and continue to grow in their faith.

- Ryan Binkley



Two thumbs up for the waffles!

“Boundaries” Couples Retreat

Boundaries in Marriage by Henry Cloud and John Townsend was first published in 1992 and has sold over 4 million copies.

A second edition came out in 2017 with an additional chapter on “Boundaries and the Digital Age.” It is now being translated in Thai by several church members. This year’s marriage seminar was based on the spin-off book, “Boundaries in Marriage.”

The hotel was not too far, not too pricey, surrounded by nature, and “chic” as the name claims, At Nata Chiang Mai Chic Jungle Hotel. Thirteen couples attended, two for the first time. Sadly, Pat couldn’t participate because she tested positive for COVID before the seminar began.

We must dare to be ourselves while respecting the rights of others to be themselves. We all know that marriages get into trouble when we take it upon ourselves to fix our partners.

We don’t always recognize how many problems spring from a failure to be ourselves. This is the first seminar which a person could attend without their partner and still improve their marriage.

- Sean Todd



Thirteen couples enjoyed learning about and discussing healthy and unhealthy boundaries in our lives.



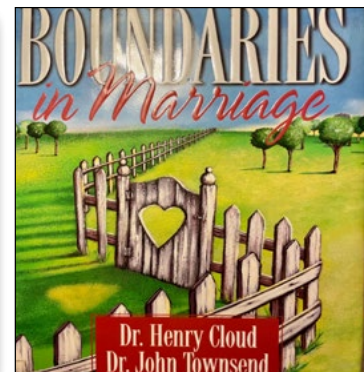
Sean said: “It’s been many years since I’ve been so interested in one topic.”



The seminar also included questions and projects for couples and groups.



Jan Reagan acts in a skit about overstepping mother/ daughter boundaries.



We recommend this book.

The Chiang Mai Church-Planting Team:

“Building Communities to Reach a City - Reaching a City to Change a Nation.”



Team Website:

[The Chiang Mai Church Planting Team](http://TheChiangMaiChurchPlantingTeam.com)

Celebrating 50 Years in Grand Fashion

Congratulations to my parents, Clay and Beth, for making it through 50 years of marriage this August!

My sisters and I are immensely grateful for their faithfulness to God and to each other. What a joy it was to celebrate in Thailand with my whole family for 10 days of fun and adventure!

I have wanted my sisters and their families to come see our lives here in Thailand for many years now, but it was my parents' golden anniversary and their generosity that finally made this trip of a lifetime happen. My family will long cherish the memories we made this summer.

- Ryan Binkley



Bouncing around Chiang Mai with 18 people was fun, if not easy.



50 years together and still smiling.



Relaxing by the beach in style.



We had the first-ever Cousins Camp outside of Texas.

Ryan, Ning, Lane, Knox & Fara Binkley



What a whirlwind this summer was for our family! We had two busy, but fun and encouraging weeks with the Highland CoC in Abilene. Lane and Knox participated in a basketball camp at ACU, while Fara made some new friends at church and enjoyed having several play dates. Ning was thankful to have time to relax at the beautiful house we stayed at in Abilene. Ryan had a full schedule of meetings, lunches and presentations with different groups at Highland. We then had a few weeks to spend with my parents in Irving. Ryan had a blast with friends on a baseball trip to San Diego, Los Angeles and Anaheim. Aside

from attending Rangers games and eating tons of Blue Bell ice cream, we also took a short trip to Austin to spend time with Ryan's sister on July 4th. We arrived back in Chiang Mai with just enough time to prepare for Ryan's family who arrived 10 days later. After everyone left, the summer was already over as school started for Ning and the kids the following week. Lane is in high school (9th), Knox is in middle school (6th) and Fara is in elementary (3rd). We barely had time to catch our breath this summer, so hopefully we will survive the school year!



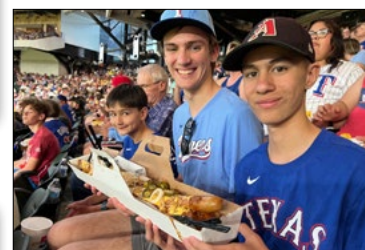
The cousins loved their time here in Chiang Mai.



Ryan and his friends may not be kids anymore but they still love baseball!



Former teammate Tonya Fikes made a visit to Abilene to see us.



The 2 lb. "boomstick" was no match for Lane and his cousin, Luke.



Sailing on a catamaran in beautiful Phuket.



Fara poses with her new best friend, Lena, in Abilene.

Restarting Internship & Friendship Week Post Covid

Summer Interns

ACU sent us three really good interns this summer!

I love it when interns try really hard to connect with the people here in Thailand.

Their great attitudes created an atmosphere of excitement around the Christian Zone this summer. I'm excited to host more interns in the future. - **Robert Reagan**



Studying 25 lessons in the Friendship book.



Exciting time swimming at the waterpark.

I always love Friendship Week! The purpose of FW is to move everyone closer to Christ.

We have now hosted 21 different groups for FW since our first one in 2013. That is more than 250 different students.

After not being able to host FW for three years (because of Covid-19), we have now hosted it three times this year and will host another one this October.

I praise God the ACU Interns helped me teach back-

to-back FW camps in June. They bonded so well with the ethnic Karen students who came from the Thai/Myanmar border to study the lessons.

The Karen students did all the cooking. The interns did all the teaching after I modeled how to teach the lessons.

We study the Friendship lessons each morning, go out for activities in the afternoon, and worship or have a service activity in the evenings.

- **Robert Reagan**



Students worship at PCZ church.



Everyone loves watermelon.



Robert, trains three interns from ACU: Brookley, Hannah & Brad.

Robert, Jan, Erika & Branson Reagan



Branson was a little kid, everyone has always liked him. That makes us feel proud of him. We enjoyed hosting Chris and Cara Flanders in our home recently. They were our teammates here in Chiang Mai from 1995-2003. Always great to be with them and catch up on our lives, especially now that we are all empty-nesters. Robert celebrated his 61st birthday on August 21. We are excited to fly to St. Petersburg, FL, soon to be with Tyler, Erika, Makenna, Everly and our next granddaughter, who will enter this world soon. On a sad note, Dusty, our cat for the past 12 years, passed away. We miss him a lot.

The day the summer internship and Friendship Week ended, Jan and I flew to spend 5 days with our son, Branson, in Japan. He's been working there almost a year now. He took us sight-seeing around southern Japan. He drove us through lush green mountains and valleys, and we even stood near a steaming volcano. We ate lots of good Japanese food and enjoyed being tourists. Jan and I celebrated our 33rd wedding anniversary on July 4th. Branson hosted a 4th of July party and invited several of his colleagues from work. It was fun for us to meet them and see his friendship with them. We were reminded of Branson's giftedness in forming friendships. Ever since



Visiting Joel & Kristen Osborne and the Mito church family in Japan.



Jan is so proud of her grown-up son, Branson, working in Japan.



Robert & Jan enjoy the sights and sounds of Japan with Branson.



After 12 years with our family, Dusty passed away on Aug. 7.



We celebrated Chris & Cara's 30th wedding anniversary with MK duck.



Makenna & Everly are ready for their baby sister to arrive soon.

Christian Counseling Association of Thailand

Ying is president of CCAT, the Christian Counselors Association Thailand. CCAT has been registered since November of 2019. During the first couple of years they coordinated many educational events. Pat and I attended a seminar on depression last year.

They've also published numerous helpful books and booklets, but they only recently hosted their first national conference. Geng, a graduate student in counseling, helped with the seminar as part of his internship with Cornerstone Counseling Foundation.

Pat and I and many Christian counselors and church leaders attended the 1st CCAT Conference:

CONNECTION - a Wholistic Approach to Mental Health for the Thai Church on June 5-7, 2023.

Bryan Shen, a Catholic missionary and counselor from Singapore, gave the keynote lectures regarding understanding the factors behind and around homosexuality. Other speakers covered an interesting variety of topics in smaller classes during the week. - Sean Todd



Geng and Ying served as emcees at the first CCAT conference.



Sean, Pat, Asia & Benjamin Todd



In the 80s I was a big C.S. Lewis fan. In the 90s I'd say the book which influenced me most was Ralph Neighbour's guide book for cell groups, *Where Do We Go From Here?* In the 00s, I was probably most influenced by Stephen Covey's *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. The book which has influenced me most so far in this decade is *Boundaries*. I've been busy proof-reading, discussing, teaching, and preaching this book. I've been arguing with the authors in the margins, and I'm only just beginning to apply the things I'm learning. In the past several months I've preached at all four congregations and also taught Genesis and Exodus. Pat

got COVID for the first time, and then I got it for the second time, but it was a much milder case. I led a marriage seminar, and Pat led a parenting seminar. We enjoyed hosting Kelly and Sara Davidson and their family recently and hosting weekly Bible studies, but we haven't enjoyed being hosts for viruses or for all the tiny ants that have invaded our house. They don't bite, but they tickle, and they give the breakfast cereal a tart flavor. We are generally healthy and happy. Our granddaughter, Ellie, just finished her first week of school.



Pat, Noi and Jan have been friends for more than 30 years now.



Sean gave extra admonition to the groom (for the cameras) just before the wedding.



Sean reading to the newest member of the congregation (Gip and Book's daughter).



We delivered some medical supplies to a clinic on the Myanmar border.



CDCC members show appreciation for Pat bringing durian to the potluck.



Pat is certified to train for the Intl. Child Development Program.