

Peter & Kelly + Lukas + Emmet Passchier

Both Feet on the Ground

Newsletter August 2009



The cows across the way

As we sit at our desks at home, we look out across the road onto a small field where cows are grazing. Beyond the field's wall-like fence farmers tend the rice paddies – we can see them if we walk 10 meters down the road. Turning our heads to look out the back windows, we see a sea of green bushes and trees, and the mountains beyond, just

a 10 minute ride away! Yet we are also only 10 minutes away from

Lampang's old city centre with its maze of markets and local shops, punctuated with famous temples on both sides of the river that runs through its core. Almost 4 weeks ago we left our language school, fellow students and friends behind in Lopburi and arrived here in Lampang



The packed car and its fan club

with our car packed to the brim, after a 7 hour journey. Many trips to many shops later our house is fully livable – we even have a guest room in case you'd like to visit! This house is slightly smaller



View from our guest room!

than our previous one, but newer and nicer looking, however, the ants and geckos still manage to find their way into every room! Our friends and colleagues live only a 10 minute walk away, and we've already made friends in the village next door... well, Emmet made friends and rest of the family followed!



*Our team in Lampang:
Chos, Bekkers, Passchiers*

Our team in Lampang consists of three families: us, a South-African family with three children, and an Australian family also with three children (but they just left to be back home for a number of months). In the 16 months that they have been here, a centre –The Lighthouse– has been established at a visible location in the city centre. From there we are establishing our network through hospitality, events, outreaches, English

classes, Kids club, Student evenings, and anything that we can think of that will interest people and build friendships. Although we have left the language school behind, we continue with formal Thai language study part-time with a language helper, whom we have already found! Peter is moving on to Level 2 of our language programme, having completed Level 1 with flying colours in Lopburi. Kelly still has two more modules to go before finishing Level 1 as she continued at half-time after Emmet's birth.



Farewell to our teachers in Lopburi



In front of our gate in Lampang

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Note: NEW ADDRESS !!

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Our whereabouts

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Lukas blowing out birthday candles with friend Tiaan



Stone to throw in the river



Bean in a beanbag



Shoulder ride

Lukas is doing very well with all the transitions in his life over the last 6 months. What with toilet training, moving to Bangkok for a month before Emmet was born, staying for the first day and night without Mama & Pappa, getting a new baby brother, saying goodbye to his best friends whom he has played with at least 5 days a week since we left Canada, meeting new friends, saying goodbye to all the friends in Lopburi, especially his well-loved Big Sister Lina who looked after him at daycare, moving to a new house, meeting more new friends, saying goodbye to some of them as well... he's been a trooper! He turned 3 in June and announces proudly "I'm 3 years old!" when asked. He enjoys puzzles, "movies", playing with cars, trains, and building blocks, and makes up stories and games with them. He loves playing in the pile of builder's sand Peter had delivered to our yard. The many cows living nearby capture his attention and he loved going with an elderly farmer to feed his cows when we went to visit our new friends in the local village. He loves his baby brother and brings him toys to play with or reminds us to "go and get him" when he is crying. His sometimes enthusiastic games with Emmet (that Mama worries might be too rough) often elicit delighted giggles. We are considering a Thai school for Lukas – in Thailand, children start school full-time (6 hours a day, 5 days a week) when they are 3 years old. While we are not quite prepared for that, we are hoping that he will get the opportunity to learn Thai and make friends with three mornings a week in a more interactive and less rote-learning-at-a-desk school which we have found in town.

Emmet, now almost 6 months old, continues to fill our lives with joy. He is a happy fellow with a ready smile. He adores his big brother and tries to interact with Lukas whenever he can. Now that Emmet can pretty well sit up by himself and reach for toys he is getting closer to being able to join in which he would so love to do. At the dining table he dives onto and devours any food within his quick reach. He is very social and is willing to be held by anyone, which is just as well because his ginger hair and blue eyes attract lots of local attention along with the comment "he's just like a doll." Already he has made many friends on behalf of the rest of us! He is such a blessing!

We are really looking forward to sharing the boys with their grandparents who will be visiting – Kelly's parents are coming in September and in November, Peter's father and his wife will visit us for 2 weeks as well! We have found relocating in another country and culture to be quite tiring, so we are looking forward to being refreshed during some holiday time!

Lots of love and blessings, *Peter & Kelly* + Lukas + Emmet



Lukas 3 years, Emmet 3 months



Lukas loves climbing



Emmet eating dragon fruit



The Passchier boys