

Our Christmas season is similar to yours: FULL!

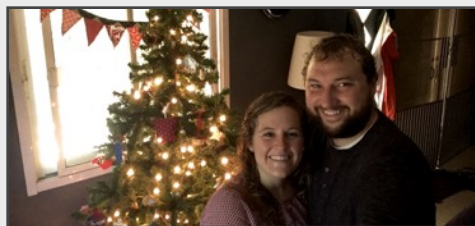
While the usual day to day of the community continues—delivering bread and flowers, trips to the clinic, new babies, birthday parties, the kids coming to play—we are now looking for ways to squeeze in a community meal for 400 and a chance to buy and wrap presents for 300 people!

We are so thankful for our church in Little Rock, Celebration Christian Fellowship, for partnering with us to make this Christmas possible. They have joined with us the past few years and wholly provided for the meal, gifts, and activities. We are so grateful! It means so much to the neighborhood.

This year was such fun, and it's incredible to reflect on how much our relationships change from year to year. It's amazing to see how much more we know the families—so that this year we could buy shoes and clothes as gifts, knowing their sizes and styles. The community meal was an epic group effort, providing noodles with vegetables and chicken, a hard-boiled egg, a few pieces of fruit, and a couple cookies to over 400 people!

The Christmas skit this year was priceless—we had four kids read the Christmas story from the Bible while others acted it out for their parents and community. They also sang two Christmas carols in Burmese! It felt more like we were throwing a party *together* rather than hosting it ourselves.

And really, Christmas still continues—we spent last night at our Burmese church's Christmas party, bringing 46 friends from the community with us!



For those of you who missed our Christmas card, we have some exciting news! We are in the process of adopting in Thailand! I'm sure you have many questions, and we do, too :) It's an adventure to be going through the system in another country and culture, to say the least. We have more questions than answers, but we do know that we've completed the paperwork stage, passed our home study, and if all goes well, we will be ready for placement in mid to late 2017. That said, please pray with us! Not only is that just around the corner, but it IS in another country and another culture, particularly a country in a challenging political situation. {Here I'm referring to both the military coup that continues to maintain control, as well as the passing of the beloved King of Thailand. Because of this, the country is in mourning until October 2017. Both have the potential to influence our adoption process, as well as visas and much more.} Please do pray with us!

We also want to ask for prayer in other areas. Once we are placed with a child, we are required to stay in-country for 18-24 months until it is all finalized and the child can apply for a US Passport. Because of this, we were hoping to visit the US in early 2017, one last time before placement. Unfortunately, we have very little information from the adoption agency, which is making the decisions challenging. We also don't have anyone to step into our roles here while we are away, making it challenging to continue Flour & Flower deliveries, kids programs, medical needs, sewing projects and more. Amidst this, we are still regularly faced with the challenges of living in an impoverished area—domestic disputes, kids struggling with development, basic needs, abuse, alcoholism, and more. Please, please pray with us.



-Pray for our trip back to the US, that we'd be able to go and have the time and resources to make it possible!

-Pray for help. We need long-term assistance, friends—whether they are expatriates, local help, or anything else. We have been praying for so long that God would send a couple to walk this road with us—please pray with us! Pray specifically for the time we are away, but also as we {hopefully} are placed with a child and continue to engage in the neighborhood.

-Pray for peace. There are so many questions and challenges in living amongst such poverty, but then also in walking away from it and trying to visit the US. Please pray for peace in our souls. Pray for healing. Pray for joy and thanksgiving.

-Pray for the adoption process, that we would be placed with the right child at the right time! Pray for peace and trust as we handle each surprise that comes our way, and pray for a smooth process. Pray for each and every detail of the child's life before and after finding our home!