

# THAILAND

Mark & Janie Durene

Spring 2005

Volume 11, Issue 1



The first several months of 2005 have been as eventful as any in our missionary career. The photo above with Janie overlooking one of the beaches destroyed by tsunami waves on December 26 is the first indication that life may not be "normal" for us this year. We happened to be in Argentina participating in the Global Student Encounter during those tragic days when at least 5,300 died in Thailand with another 2,900 still listed as missing today.

The agony of massive loss of life is multiplied many times in our hearts knowing that if 4,000 Thais perished, percentages tell us that 3,968 will **not** be met by the Master to spend eternity with Him. Our passion is to change those statistics. Spiritual leaders must be raised up and churches must be planted.

That is why we are working this year to complete the TLC church and bible school. That is why Mark is joining 6 others on a 1,100 mile bicycle ride across Thailand. That is why we are working with our missionary compatriots in building "Dream Team Leaders," helping with the national bible school in Bangkok, working with the national church planting committee, hosting teams and interns, working with Book of Hope, and a host of other projects.

We can do none of this without your help. Thank you so very much for your ministry in Thailand with us. We covet your prayers, finances, and visits. Thailand is blessed because of you!

## Inside this issue:

<b>Argentina...</b> Global Student Encounter	2
<b>What a team!!!</b>	2
MN / BI Join Hands	3
Dream Team	3
King & Apple Wedding	3
Big Bicycle Ride	4
Prayer Points	4

## Tsunami Response



This police patrol boat sets about 1/2 mile from the ocean where the tsunami placed it. Not far from here Bangkok Liberty Church has opened a community center where survivors can re-

ceive emotional and spiritual help. Already several have committed their lives to Jesus and 15-25 people meet on Sunday morning to birth Thai Muang Liberty Church (AG).

Besides this effort Thailand Assemblies of God churches and missionaries are working with refugees in temporary camps like the one pictured on the right. We are helping to rebuild homes and fishing boats, distributing needed clothing and food, counseling children through a special tsunami comic book, and even

setting up an orphanage.

By the time you receive this newsletter Mark and the Thailand bicycle team will have spent a day working with some of these relief efforts. Look for our report in the next newsletter.



## Special points of interest:

- **Krista** graduated from NCU on May 6 with a BA in Elementary Education.
- **Jeris** finished his first full year at Evangel University in Pre-Engineering.
- **Jocelyn** led her Sr. High Basketball team to a season-ending championship.
- Follow our bike trip on the web at: [\[ventureonline.org\]](http://ventureonline.org).

# Mark and Janie in Argentina?

*What were the Durenes doing in Argentina?*

From December 29-January 4 Mark and Janie attended **Global Student Encounter** in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Some 1,600 students and campus ministry leaders from 24 nations came together for inspiration, interaction and networking.

The most exciting thing about the experience was the powerful spiritual atmosphere that still exists in Argentina after more than 20 years of revival. The event was held at King of Kings Assembly of God Church which claims some 25,000 members. Crowds stood in lines waiting to enter the church before every evening

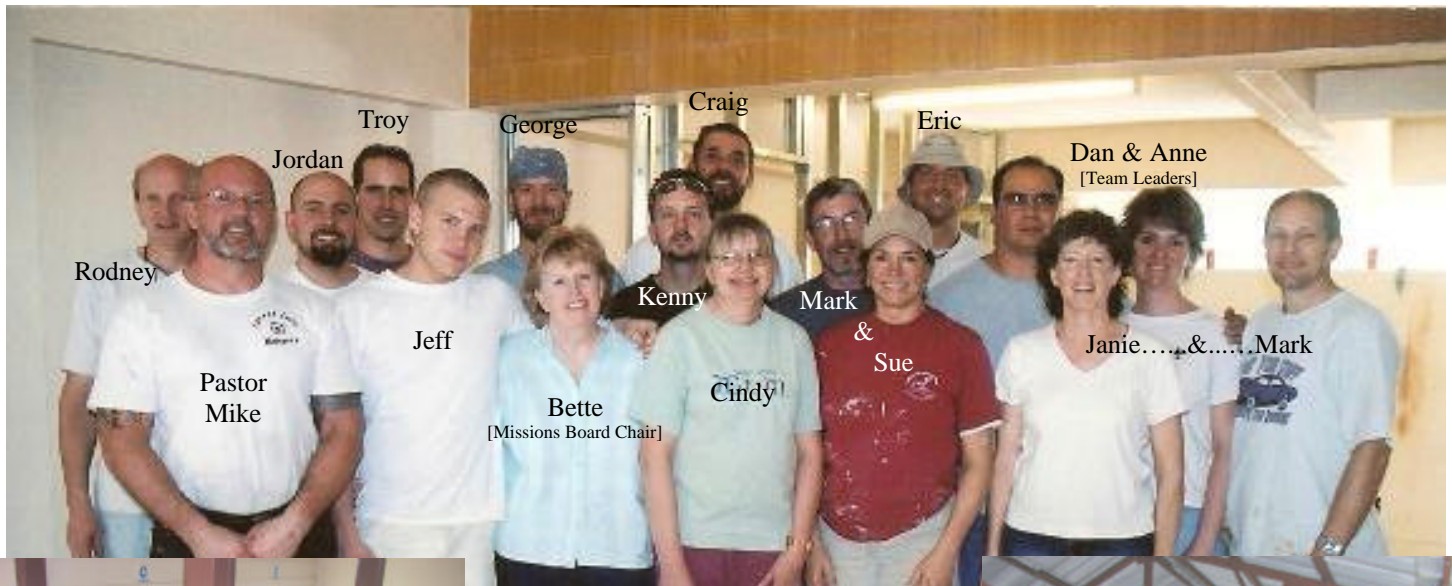
service. Every night literally hundreds responded to altar calls, and every night people encountered God's powerful touch.

We returned to Thailand impressed with the fact that the Assemblies of God has become one of the fastest growing movements in history because we experience the Living, All-powerful God in our churches. *May it be so in Thailand!*



Mark was privileged to serve as one of the leadership training workshop speakers.

# What a Team!!!



We can honestly say, with apologies to the many great teams we have hosted over the years, this team was the best we've ever had. 15 people worked hard from early morning to late at night to transform Chiangmai Liberty

Church in just 4 days. They tiled the auditorium, carpeted the platform, restored the termite-infested columns, built a nursery, built closets, walled in a stairwell, removed walls, added walls, built a roof over the flat top of the building, replaced old doors,

Painted, and I'm sure I missed some things. They worked even harder to transform Chiangrai Kid's Home in ONE day, plus Sunday ministry in churches.

Thank you so much Maranatha Team for blessing us personally as well as Thailand.

## Minnesota AG District and Builders International Team Up

Superintendent Clarence St John and the Minnesota District did something they have never done before. They took on a District-wide missions project. We are blessed and privileged to be on the receiving end.

During District Council on Monday, April 18th the District put together a live telephone conversation with Mark as they prayed and prepared to financially partner with us in rais-

ing \$250,000 to build a church/bible school for TLC church.

David Wagner and Builders International have promised to match every gift from the District to complete the project, and on the last 2 Sundays in June, churches across Minnesota will receive a special offering for the project.

Thank you so much MN District and BI!!!



2004 Christmas program at TLC

## Dream Team Leaders Project Begins

From March 28 - April 1 Mark worked with other missionaries and Thai AG national leaders to begin training 36 young people for ministry. They ranged from 16 years old to 25, and all sensed a call to full-time ministry. Each one had to promise to read the Bible and pray at least 15 minutes every day, read the Bible in its entirety in the next 12 months, memorize scriptures weekly, study at least 3

ICI Bible courses for college credit, and meet weekly with their pastor or mentor.

Please pray for these young people that they would be faithful in following through on their commitments, and that they would become spiritually mature, effective in ministry, and prepared as the Thailand Assemblies of God future leaders of integrity and honor.



## King and Apple Wedding

We have spoken of Apple many times over our years in Thailand. It has been our joy to see her mature as a believer and spiritual leader.

On February 26 Apple (Sujirat Saetae) married King (David Sirichai). King is a wonderful Bible teacher and we are sad that we will "lose" Apple to the School of Biblical Studies in Pangnga southern Thailand.

We are proud of both King and Apple and are confident that they will have a powerful impact on the lives of many Thai leaders for years to come.

Please pray for them as they begin married life together, and for their ministry as they help open SBS in October this year.



## Tidbits

Jana Fleming is the first to respond to our 4-year plea for school teachers for Grace International School in Chiangmai. She has been a blessing to GIS as a 2nd grade teacher and coach for after school sports.

GIS needs more teachers! Any volunteers?



... NCU blessed us and Chiangrai Kid's Home with a Spring Break team led by Ryan Kingswriter. They worked hard to bless the kids in Chiangrai.

... Congratulations to Hat Yai Assembly of God for their new building dedication held April 23. The church has grown steadily over its 20-year history and now has one of the largest congregations of any Thailand AG church in the nation.

Congratulations also to Pastor Wirasak for being elected the new General Superintendent of the Thailand AG.



## MARK AND JANIE DURENE

20047 Ulysses Street  
Elk River, MN 55330

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 66  
ELK RIVER, MN



*Missionaries to Thailand*

address correction requested

### TO CONTACT US IN THAILAND ....

#### Mark & Janie Durene

186/117 World Club Village  
T.NongKhwaay, A.HangDong  
Chiangmai 50230 THAILAND

**Phone:** 011-66-53-430-526

**Email:** [mark.durene@agmd.org](mailto:mark.durene@agmd.org)

We're on the Web!

[durene.exodusdesign.com](http://durene.exodusdesign.com)

## Venture Bicycle Team

Almost 18 months ago we purchased land to build a church and Bible school in Chiangmai. We were not able to raise enough money to build, and have been renting facilities instead.

We are about to be rescued by a group of adventurers called "Venture." Five young men have worked hard for the past several months to raise funds for this project by promising to ride across Thailand. By the time you receive this newsletter Mark and Prin will have joined these five in a 1,100 mile ride from Hat Yai in southern Thailand to Mae Sai in the north.

The trip began May 16 and will end on June 2. If you receive this newsletter in time, please pray for Mark, Aaron, Drew, Verlyn, Ethan, David and Prin. Pray for our safety, health and strength, no equipment failures, and for success in raising the \$25,000 they have set as their goal. Pray for Janie and Jocelyn who are staying back in Chiangmai.

If you would like to monitor our progress, log on to the Venture web site at [ventureonline.org](http://ventureonline.org). Select the "Journal" option and click on the Thailand flag.



## Prayer Points

1. Pray for the Venture team as they ride across Thailand.
2. Pray for Apple and King as they begin married life together and as they prepare to open the School of Biblical Studies this Fall.
3. Pray for our Dream Team Leaders; for maturation and for more young people to be called into full-time ministry.
4. Pray for the Thai Muang Liberty Church plant in the tsunami-damaged region of southern Thailand. Pray also for the kid's counseling comic book.
5. Pray for Pastor Wirasak Chulirak as he begins his term as Thailand AG General Superintendent.
6. Pray for David Kumdee, the 4-year-old son of a Thai pastor; for his esophagus as he accidentally swallowed poison and will have surgery to cut out a damaged portion on June 20.