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The Children's Ministry

Baan Nam Jai (Home of the Open Heart) is a ministry that started with caring for abandoned children affected by the disease HIV/AIDS. The founders are Paul & Penny, Australian missionaries with YWAM. Penny is the director and has established a Children's Home with a model that aims to operate not just an "orphanage" but a true "home". Most of the children came when they were infants and have grown up with Paul & Penny as their "mom & dad". The kids are bilingual as they have grown up with Paul & Penny as their main caretakers.



Paul & Penny's story

Caring for people with HIV/AIDS is a huge part of Penny's heart since 1999 when she arrived to Thailand. Knowing what it feels like to have a life threatening disease (she has had cancer four times), she embraces her task to assist people with/affected by HIV with daily passion. She is supported wholeheartedly by her husband, Paul, whose major focus is in the area of

training and developing leaders. Paul and Penny don't do this because they are strong, but because it is what God has given them the strength to do; it is God's heart to care for the sick, to pray for them, to teach them, and to love them.



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Paul & Penny go on Sabbatical

This past couple of months have been a time of adjustment for me but also preparation for transition for the rest of Baan Nam Jai. Paul & Penny's 1 year sabbatical is approaching and we have been preparing for the adjustments of staff roles while they are gone. Currently we do not have another nurse onsite. Thus the hospice is unable to accept patients as we need at least 2 nurses to provide 24/7 care.

The most urgent need currently is a nurse to manage the health of the children in the home. With Paul&Penny's absence for the year, there will be multiple caretakers coming in to care for the kids. They have asked me to take over the care and management of the children's health.

With much prayer and thought, I believe that God's direction is moving me to be more involved with the kids' ministry in the area of health management.

Please pray for...

- this change of role for me as I move towards caring for the children's health rather than hospice patients.
- the children, as they are going through a time of transition with Paul & Penny's absence.
- the staff onsite to have wisdom in caring for the needs of the children physically, mentally and emotionally.
- more staff to fill the needs of the ministry. (preschool teacher, male caretakers)
- direction in management of the hospice: Currently we are understaffed and do not have patients in the hospice, I'll be seeking to find and establish relationships with doctors and nurses in the local hospitals and in the community. Please pray that God will open up doors for me into the health care community here in Chiang Rai.

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Last newsletter, I had asked for prayer for my visa application process. I've been back to the immigration office 4 times now and we still are unable to submit my visa application process because we continue to make corrections to the paperwork as advised by the immigration official who receives us that day. We will aim to go again this coming week. Please pray we will have ALL the paper work corrected and that the officials will be happy with my application and grant me my 1 year visa!

Pictured: Me and Mercy going to her doctor's appointment.

Thank you for reading!

- Maria Bangcong

"For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe. He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing"

(Deut 10:17-18)



How you can be involved:

- **Prayer** (please pray for my requests)
- **Reading** (read my stories!)
- **Writing** (write encouraging emails back to me)
- **Giving** (help support me financially)

* *I'm still looking for supporters willing to support me monthly for the rest of my commitment here till 2018.*

please reply back if you would like more information on how to give financially.

Need to catch up?

Here's how my passion started:

I'd like to tell you a story about the catalyst of my interest with missions in the medical field. It all starts out with a friendship I had with a girl who was infected with HIV/AIDS at birth. This story is her story as much as it is mine.



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