

Salt

Fresno Magazine

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A portrait of Dr. Mark Chin, a middle-aged man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. In the background, there is a large, dark, textured sculpture of a person's head and shoulders, possibly a religious figure, set against a light-colored, diamond-patterned wall.

Dr. Mark Chin First Chinese Baptist Church

Jesus said, "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill." Matthew 5:13-14, The Message

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(See inside back cover)

Mission Memories

By Denise Arzoian

In 2006 and 2008, Dr. Mark Chin from First Chinese Baptist Church (FCBC), along with 17 other men and women, joined together to serve as a medical missionary team in Thailand. The following are condensed e-mails (from the 2006 trip) that Dr. Chin sent while on their journey.

Day 1 – Sunday, July 30, 2006

Aloha from Chiang Rai.

(I really think it's supposed to be sawawseekrup = hello, but my Thai stinks so far.) Speaking of stinking, I think the medical/dental team literally stinks right now. We have been traveling for 30 hours and no one has had a shower.

We met Kelly, another member of the team from Missouri, and Dr. Obregon on the plane. Luka, our host, met us and provided the transportation to the Golden Triangle Inn. Richard was the brave soul (Nanette, you may not want to hear this, so cover your eyes) who hung on the back of the truck and blocked the luggage from falling out of the cargo bay since it wasn't very secure. He held on for dear life for a 30-minute drive at speeds of 50 mph. I, for one, feel he is entitled to hazardous pay.

Chiang Rai is a nice city, industrialized, with most modern conveniences. We will be going to outlying villages an hour from here. We will set up some clinics in churches and some in schools. Some may be outside. Rain may limit what we can do or where we can go. The Golden Triangle Inn is...well, let me quote Bill Ho, "It looked nicer in the brochure..."

Signing off for now. Please pray for our stamina and safety and opportunities to touch others physically and spiritually. Our pastors and members of the team each have their God given talents and hope we have an opportunity to optimally utilize them in the conditions that are presented to us.

We miss you all. Love and hugs to all our loved ones. On behalf of the medical/dental team...

Ciao, Mark Chin



Day 2 – Monday, July 31, 8:20pm - Chiang Rai

We have caught our second wind and have acclimated to the new time zone. We ate breakfast, and we are armed with our Imodium and Pepto-Bismol. Having been nourished with food, we set out to be nourished spiritually. Then we headed for the hills about an hour away.

From a distance we saw the silhouette of the "Sleeping Beauty Lady" lying on her side in the mountains. Mark, a plastic surgeon, made some suggestions on how to improve the terrain and topography in strategic areas to enhance her profile. Many of the homes were small huts with tin roofs. We set up a clinic in a Christian church about 15 x 40 feet. The room was barren with a portrait of Jesus on one end. The dental team set up 3 stations to treat patients after blowing a few fuses. Pharmacists were located with the medical side, which comprised 4 stations. We saw about 60 plus patients, young and old.

Everyone worked well together. Ming and Luka did a great job translating. Keep in mind that there are 4 or more languages involved. Arlene and Gerry triaged the patients. The medical docs treated children and adults with colds, bronchitis, anemia, abscesses, tendonitis, etc. The dentists extracted teeth and provided restorative dentistry and cleanings.



God blessed us with a light drizzle during the clinic. Afterwards, it poured. It is monsoon season. We are reminded that the medical team is here to serve and spread God's will. Pastor Crumble highlighted the day by bringing a man to the Lord! We will continue to see how God leads us over the next two weeks. ***Praise the Lord!***

During the trip back we admired a variety of Buddha (bright gold) and tributes to the king. Scooters are everywhere. I feel guilty driving my gas guzzling SUV down a few blocks to SaveMart. The scooters are an affordable but dangerous necessity. We see three people on scooters, and mothers with babies in a "Snugli." They carry umbrellas while they drive!

We wound up the night with dinner and a devotion. We are getting ready for tomorrow. I am optimistic that we will impact many lives and expose them to Christianity.

God bless you all and thank you for your prayers.
Chin signing off.

Day 7 - Saturday, August 5, 2006 - Chiang Rai

Maybe we had too much fun. Maybe the heat is getting to us. Some of us are feeling the heat and physical stresses creeping up. Today was hot and humid. Please pray for our physical and mental health.

Pastor prepared a message. We were compared to the disciples in Mark 6:6-13 going village-to-village taking few necessities. "They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people and healed them."

We went to Luka's compound. Luka has 3 ministries under Thai Akha Ministry Foundation. We set up shop at the development center. A patient was referred to Mark with a protrusion hanging from an eyelid. With time, it could obstruct vision. So Mark removed the skin tag. A wide smile from ear to ear was noted on the patient after he realized this life changing effect. It seemed like an insignificant event but small things can make big changes in people's lives. The patient feels better about himself and less self-conscious.

Many of the hill people are born here and die here. They have no transportation or access to reach medical help. The village people are enviable. They live apparently care free. The smiles on their faces give an indication of their satisfaction in life. How easy it would be to retire into the hills and take it easy. As Christians, we are reminded we cannot be complacent and do nothing. We are commanded to serve others and evangelize. How do we change cultural ways? We need to lead them to Jesus. So if it takes one splinter or a cavity at a time, we will let these people know who dropped by to serve them and why.

Remember, love one another.



Day 8 – Sunday, August 6, 2006 - Chiang Rai

Oh, what a morning! We headed out to Luka's Akha village for church. Several members of the church brought vegetables in sacks and set them on the altar. One thin, frail unkempt man brought a bundle of 8 ft. long sugar canes and laid them on the altar. Pastor did an altar call. One man slowly raised and stood up. It was the sugar cane man. What a wonderful sight! It was later discovered that the man was an alcoholic. Now he is saved! It brought tears to some members of FCBC.



Day 10 - Tuesday, August 8, 2006 - Chiang Rai

There are 4 dentists and 5 doctors, all writing prescriptions. There are only two pharmacists with a line of patients that starts in the morning and doesn't end until the last patient has received their drug. Tens of thousands of pills are unpacked each time we set up in a new location.

Treating the patients is the best part of any day. We see grins and smiles exposing discolored and missing teeth, without any embarrassment. They leave with the same smile but with bulging cheeks from packing and dental rolls sticking out between the teeth as they nod and say, "thank you."



At dinner we reflected on the mission. What did we get from it individually? We have to trust in the Lord. The Akhans benefited from us but we may benefit MORE from them, spiritually and emotionally. We realize that it is easier to give money and harder to give of yourself. It could very well have been Mission: Impossible, but by the grace of God, "All things are possible."

Guuulong, Huumadae for listening!...Team Fresno



Departure Day - Sunday, August 13, 2006 - Bangkok

Yankees go home! We're ready. Time has passed by fast. What about the people we left behind? That's up to the Christians in this world...to spread the Good News.

**On behalf of Team Fresno....
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!**



Denise Arzoian has lived in Fresno with her husband Dennis for the past 25 years. She attends The Bridge Evangelical Free Church. She has a passion to share about her experiences with God through her writing.

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**no
ADMISSION
CHARGE**

Don't miss this exciting event. You will have the opportunity to mix and mingle, so bring your business card.

- **LIVE MUSIC**
- **DOOR PRIZES**
- **REFRESHMENTS**



**Dr Mark Chin
& the Mission Team
Thursday,
March 25, 2010
5:30-6:30 PM**

**First Chinese
Baptist Church**
6080 N. Angus
Fresno, CA 93710