



## **The Richard Guay Family Missionaries to Thailand**

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Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Dear Friends,

For several weeks now, I (Kristi) have written most of our prayer letters and email updates because Richard was unable to; but today I am the one writing because I wanted to share my joy and gratitude with you. Praise the Lord that today Richard is perfectly able to write, but he is just giving me the privilege of telling you how God has answered all of our prayers.

Two weeks ago someone emailed me the words to the song "He Giveth More Grace," and as I read the second verse I broke down and cried. It says "When we have exhausted our store of endurance, When our strength has failed ere the day is half done, When we reach the end of our hoarded resources, Our Father's full giving is only begun." As I faced that Sunday the words to that song comforted me. As I watched Richard barely able to walk across the yard to church, and as he sat looking blankly not understanding a single word of Thai, I wondered how much worse it could get. My heart was broken, but God kept bringing the words of the song to my mind. That night as our family had devotions together, we purposefully sang Richard's favorite hymns in English, but he just barely remembered even those. But God's grace truly knows no limits, and He was just about to answer our prayers.

God allowed many circumstances to happen to cause us to doubt the doctor in Chiangmai, and then God led us to a hospital with an Epilepsy center in Bangkok. Richard arrived there having a seizure, and he had 5 before they hooked him up to the EEG. The doctor immediately took him off 2 of his anticonvulsant medications, began an EEG with video monitoring, and discussed his history with us for hours. The training of the staff and the equipment used were far better than any Thai hospital we had been to yet.

By the next day Richard was improving! He had several more seizures, but each day he was improving. By the fourth day the doctors had seen enough to make a diagnosis. We were very surprised to find out that Richard doesn't have epilepsy! Instead, the doctor believes both EEG's done in Chiangmai were done incorrectly. He feels that Richard has non-epileptic seizures. These seizures are true seizures, but they aren't due to abnormal brain wave activity, so there is no chance of brain damage. They are thought to be caused by some type of trauma (especially in childhood), great stress, or chronic pain. When someone has trouble coping with these problems, sometimes the body will have seizures. Although they are non-epileptic seizures, they are still real seizures. In Richard's case, the doctor believes they are due to an accident when he was 21 months old. He fell on a stick, which caused him to be blind in his right eye. His parents were out of town, so he was at the hospital for hours before they arrived. It is possible that this trauma, which happened when he was too young to express his feeling, has led to these seizures. The doctor says that many people recover immediately when they understand the problem. This sounds strange, and I was skeptical at first, but today makes the 6<sup>th</sup> day with no seizures! This morning Richard taught Sunday school (in Thai of course) with his usual enthusiasm. He is sitting across from me reading a Thai book. He has his sparkle back in his eyes, his joy for life renewed, and is thinking as sharply as ever. He is completely back to normal! Praise the Lord!!! The doctor says the problem got so much worse after he began medication because the medicine wasn't needed, and he was suffering side effects from the medicine. He is currently being weaned from the last anticonvulsant medicine!

Also we found out that he has glaucoma in his right eye. That explains all of the light patterns he has been seeing. The doctor also said that people who are blind in one eye often see things just like a person missing a limb often feels pain in the missing limb.

We are all so thankful to be back at home in Tak. We could never thank you enough for your help. The prayers for us and the encouraging emails got us through each day. God used each little thing to keep us going. Also money was the last thing on our minds during this crisis, but thankfully many of you thought about that. You sent more than enough to cover the hospital bill (which was almost \$1,000) and our travel expenses. Not to mention your faithful support has kept the church going and our family's needs met. We are so grateful to each of you!

We have more good news. Joshua had a new EEG done, and it showed no seizures! He is going to come off his medicine. Please pray he will remain seizure free.

God had more special plans while we were at the hospital. While explaining what led us to Thailand, Richard got to witness to 10 doctors! Then another day a nurse came in our room and asked me if I could talk to a man who was headed for brain surgery. He was upset and scared he would die, and the nurse asked me to talk to him since we are missionaries. Richard was hooked up to an EEG so he couldn't go, but our missionary friend Bro. Ricky had just come to visit. So since it was a man, I asked him to talk to him instead of me. The man got saved just before they wheeled him to surgery! He made it through the surgery too! God truly does "work all things together for good"!

Please keep praying as we begin to get back to normal. We also would like you to help us pray about when we should take our furlough. We are due to take a furlough this year, but we thought we would wait an extra year. Now we are wondering if we should do it this year. Please join us in praying about this! Love, Kristi

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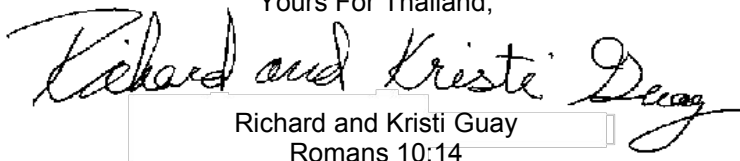
As Kristi said, thank you so much for all of your prayers. God has answered in a mighty way. Even though I have a very sketchy memory of the last few months, I know God has helped me through it all even as you have prayed for me. Today, I was able to teach Sunday school for the first time in two months! God has given me victory over the past that will enable me to continue into the future for Him! It is like a fresh new start! As Jeremiah said, "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23) Praise the Lord!

Please pray for the man that trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation and for all the nurses and doctors we were able to witness to. Also, please continue to pray for the Thai people to understand their need for a Savior. Pray for me to have wisdom and know the will of God about some decisions that need to be made as well. Richard

**Sending Church**

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Yours For Thailand,



Richard and Kristi Guay  
Romans 10:14