

Sarah Kelsay – May – August 2010

I came to Thailand expecting to be changed, to know God more intimately, and to have some direction with future decisions in my life... and I'm here to tell you that all of those things are possible if you simply let go of your fears and take that leap of faith. God has so much in store for you!

For just over two years now my dream was to go to Thailand to work with an organization that is fighting back against prostitution, and for three months, I have been apart of a business that is doing just that. Holistically speaking, the work that the people do here is incredible. They meet the women where they are at, whether it is in the bars or on the streets, and they offer them the life-giving truths of Jesus Christ. On top of the work that Night Light does for the women who either worked or still work in the bars, you are able to take a step back and look at your own life too. Walking the streets and the Red Light District itself forces you to find out where you stand on many issues in your own life, how you live on a daily basis, and you get to continually form the beliefs that you base your entire life on.

When living in Thailand for such a short amount of time, you are thrown into an environment that is sexually-crazed, but for reasons that you only begin to understand after living here for awhile. The men and women here are completely void of God, and when you come face to face with that emptiness in a world that says you are never going to be good enough, you simply start to fill yourself up with things and people that create some sort of instant gratification. This has been a sweet opportunity to grow in my own faith, to recognize my need to walk with God in every moment, and to let go of my need to feel important or simply put, my need to feel needed. Ultimately, you come away with the realization that outside of God, you have nothing to offer anyone. But with God in my life, I have the gift of life and truth and love to offer whoever I come in contact with! Love knows no language barrier, and it is a really hard thing to do to choose to come to the end of yourself so that God takes over- from personal experience, it has been the best thing I could have ever done at this time in my life.

The beauty of realizing your desperate need for God is that you start to see these hindrances in your own life. You are faced with one stark truth after another that you place other people, relationships, clothes, money, schooling, etc., all before your relationship with God. Being in Thailand, I have realized my own depravity and my own desires to fill this void in my life with things and people that were never meant to be my everything. You see, we are no different then the women and men we come in contact with in the bars. And working with Night Light, you have this sweet opportunity to see the redemption that only God can bring to women and children!

On top of God's redemption, you are brought into a sweet community of believers that are all here for a common-purpose and a unified-goal, which is to bring the

light of Jesus into a culture that is held captive by the chains of different faiths, religions, broken families, promiscuity, etc., that will never satisfy! It is heart-breaking, overwhelming, and you feel small all the time... but by the grace of God, and His love moving in and through you every moment of every day, you begin to feel the power of His presence to change the way things are- whether that means here in Thailand, or wherever He calls you to be in each moment!

I am heading back to North America soon to finish up my schooling, and my heart is starting to feel more and more of a tug towards the problems that I have faced here in Thailand, that I know are HUGE in the States and Canada. The Lord's heart beats for all the souls in this world, and sometimes it takes stepping into a new culture entirely to realize that! My biggest dream for a few years was to come to Thailand, and now that I've been here for three months, I am starting to realize that it was just a seed, and that this was simply a starting point for the life that God has for me! I am so excited to live in God's will because I have no idea where I may end up one day-- there is no greater adventure than that!