



Monthly Report from Michelle Nicholson
Long-Term Outbound Student in Thailand
Due Date: November 1, 2010

Well this month has certainly been different than the other months I've spent in Thailand. I didn't have school the entire month. At school in Thailand, they start the school year in June and end in March, so the first semester ends in September, and there is a month-long break in October. Although that's a long break from school I wasn't bored, but I do miss school and seeing my Thai friends. Well, at the beginning of October a few other exchange students and I went to Lampang (another city fairly close to Chiang Mai) with a Rotarian. There, we went to a really famous temple, and a pottery factory, and we toured the city on horse-drawn buggies. There I tried a Thai "ice-cream sandwich"; two pieces of bread with ice-cream in the middle. It was surprisingly delicious! Needless to say, I had a great time in Lampang.

We also had RYLA camp this month, which all the Inbounds and potential Thai Outbounds were obligated to go to. We had many group activities, such as tossing eggs to each other (I can't remember how many eggs I cracked!) and filling up a bucket of water with water drawn from a lake by multiple smaller pails - only the bucket had a hole in the bottom! It was a great weekend and I'm glad we went.

In Chiang Mai, we have a night market called "Walking Street" that happens every Sunday night. One week, some Thai friends from school and I went and raised money for a stray dog shelter in Chiang Mai. We didn't raise that much money, but it was a fun time - and all in the name of a good cause.

Last, but certainly not least, we had our Central Trip with all the exchange students in our district (3360). The trip lasted 8 days, and I can't even begin to

describe how incredible it was. We went to so many places, including Thailand's capital city of Bangkok. We went bamboo rafting, on a boat tour of a floating market, to the Grand Palace, and a dinner cruise. We also did a lot of shopping, went to the Museum of Siam, and got to explore the largest malls in Bangkok.

When I was anticipating this month, I was worried that I would be bored - have nothing to do. Looking back on it, it was really fun. And I definitely wasn't bored!