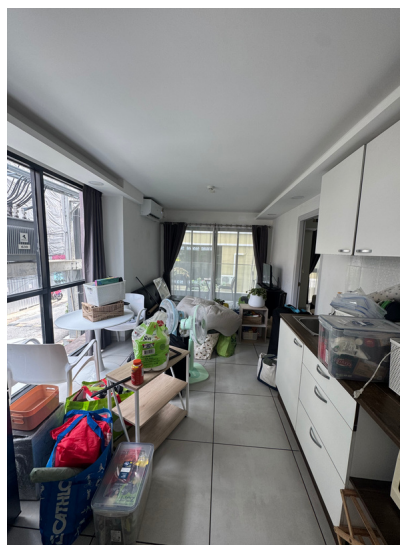




MADDY'S NEWSLETTER

A New Beginning - Moving Flats

It has officially been 1 year since I have been in Thailand and this month I needed to move. Last month, Ava, my roommate moved back to America so I could no longer afford the two bedroom apartment with just me and I needed to move away from Soi 6, the largest red-light district in Pattaya. It truly just felt like my apartment block was just an extension of the the redlight district. I loved living there for my first year but was very excited to move. After it took me so long to find an apartment, once I found it everything happened at once! I saw it one day, the next I signed the papers and then the next week I moved. I was so blessed as my pastors helped me move and moving everything from one place to another only took one morning. However, packing and unpacking took much longer! But finally I have moved in and I am so happy with where I am. Further away from the bars, in a more family friendly area where in the morning I see people walking their dogs and it just gives me more peace.



Leading my first Team!

I have helped many times in leading teams and have been given many roles but this was the first time I was solely and alone put in charge of this team. I started by giving them a not so short orientation then I took them out to see Soi 6. Even though I had warned them what it would be like, I guess they didn't believe me until they saw it for themselves and just how many women work on just one street! Most days I worked from 9:30am -8:00pm, sometimes later, with the team whether it was meetings or just spending time with them but after that very, very long week I was exhausted. This team was such a blessing. They took me out to eat and were just so kind. They also blessed Soi 6 as we made 400 bags with small gifts and went up and down the street giving them to the bar girls telling them all about Tamar it was a lot of fun. Their feedback to Daniel was that I was an amazing leader, and I share this mostly because it was such a blessing for me to hear and it really encouraged me!





Start of Tamar Training

This month we began a new annual training programme. We started off with 6 girls named Oh, Op, Ice, Mai, Ah and Mon. Sadly Mon had a lot of mental sickness she wasn't willing to work on or even admit she had so she has left us and now back working in Soi 6, which is just very sad. However the other 5 girls are doing amazingly, two of them have been so interested in learning about Jesus and the other three each week are opening up more and more. It amazing to see them all on the journey and they are taking the vocational training very seriously which is amazing to see, so please continue to pray with me for them

Volunteering

A lot has changed in how we manage those volunteering at Tamar. There was a meeting at the Soi 6 Centre, where they officially made me the manager, which honestly has been exciting, and overwhelming! I had been leading unofficially this past year, which hasn't been easy as I was expected to do a lot but boundaries weren't clear. So now it is clear, it is great. But I do question if I am ready for such a big task. I will be leading the outreach side of ministry, responsible for the upkeep of the building, teams and volunteers that come here and for some part of the finances. Part of me knows I can do it but I am not fully sure because, well, I am only 23. This month I also spent a week where I was the only volunteer and had to pick up a few extra things including teaching English in one of the bars. But then a team of Mennonite's have joined me for the next month, they are hard working and have been a real blessing to me. But also already challenging my leadership skills with so many questions and decisions being mine to make. Outside of work they have been kind and fun to be with. I have also been more active in my church here, being the MC of several services!



Prayer Points Please:

- Pray for this next year and for my new responsibilities.
- Pray for my visa, as you know I did a border run and came back on a 30 day tourist visa. Now I need to change it to an education visa, which will give me a full year 's visa, which I then still need to update every three months.
- the next volunteer comes in September, so please pray for her visa and also that we'll get along well.
- Pray as I continue to learn Thai. I am really struggling with where I am with it, the feeling I am not getting better and struggling to understand Thai's when they speak to me even though I know the Thai.



After being in Thailand and Pattaya for 1 year the biggest thing I want to say is **Thank You**. Thank you, everyone, so much who has sponsored me, prayed for me, read my monthly newsletter and just been there for me. I, honestly, couldn't be more thankful to you all. I am so thankful and have been honoured by all of you but most importantly you have been a community that is being God's hand and feet. Every girl I have encountered has been all of us at work together, giving God the glory, so truly, truly thank you!

with love from Maddy xxx