

harvest

*Just a little cultural note:
Notice the Buddhas on
the dashboard of this taxi
and the amulet hanging
from the rearview
mirror. Such charms are
omnipresent here.*



Staying Dry



These vehicles on the left (top photo) are parked on the elevated highway. They are parked there so they don't end up like the red car. (Side photo) The police are asking drivers to take the vehicles "up-country" as there are thousands of them parked on over-passes and along many miles of elevated highways here in Bangkok and are causing problems.

The floods that have caused so much misery in Thailand have inexorably been marching towards Bangkok; now they have arrived. The government has warned us that this flood may continue for another 6+ weeks even though the rainy season has pretty much ended. Bangkok sits in the opening of a huge flood plain. All of the water from an extensive area, the size of a moderate American state exits the country through three rivers. Bangkok sits on one of them.

The city authorities are telling us today to start storing tap water. The stores are already empty of dry and canned goods, bottled water and many other items. There are 14,000+ factories that are under water, many of them are foreign car manufacturers and computer hardware manufacturers. 60% of the world's hard drives are made here. Expect the price of computers to go up because of this flood. Everything from food to





building materials that we need in Bangkok come from districts that are already submerged so there are going to be shortages for a long time yet.

The district where we live is still dry although the two to the north of us (within Bangkok) have experienced flooding. It has been marching towards us. The area immediately to the north of us, Jatujak, just began to flood on Monday.

In our case, our danger doesn't come so much from the river that flows through the center of Bangkok, even though we live only a couple of miles from it, rather from the canals. The water covering the flood plain that stretches out to the north of us has to get to the sea any way that it can, and as I have mentioned it has to do so through us. Bangkok is full of hundreds of canals and it is these canals as well as the river that are overflowing and causing so much damage. We have one canal about a block from our house that has already breached its banks upstream from us, and another one about a mile from us.

Scenes from our street: The stores are sandbagging their fronts. Many are actually building little flood walls.

Please pray. Remarkably few people have died as a result of these floods, almost 400 (compare that to the 200,000 that died in the cyclone storm surge in Myanmar in 2008), just the same, many more than a million are homeless, including friends of ours from our church.





Robin has met several times this year with a group of Thai leaders here in Bangkok with the goal of developing wholistic ministry in this city. A portion of the group has been focusing on providing vision conferences to pastors by district with follow up coaching. This has been Robin's area of focus. Another portion has been involved developing a crisis response group called **CVSI – Christian Volunteers for Social Involvement**. (The abbreviation for that in Thai is **ส.ค.ส.** Notice the arm band on our little model.) Because flooding is an annual problem here this has been their main focus. Before these recent major floods (the worst in 50 years in Thailand), they had had three outreaches, once in the south of Thailand, twice in different parts of the central district. Little did they know what was awaiting them. The scope of the devastation is so vast now.



[Click for more Pictures](#)

Our goal is to do all that we can, through local

churches in Thailand to bring necessary relief to the most affected by flooding.



[Please click here to see a video of what the CSVI is doing to bring relief to flood victims.](#)

Robin was recently in Myan.. for a DNA conference. We invited our friend Anna from a nearby creative access country to share with the DNA team again. Each time more pieces of the puzzle fall into place for the overall strategic plan for this country.

A Food For the Hungry worker is doing an excellent job of promoting wholistic ministry around the country. During the past time or two that we were there we focused on bring her with us as we taught in different places to introduce her to the people we work with. This time Robin found her fully involved and plugged in. Her schedule is full for the next few months. Her challenge is now to be strategic with her time and energy as the opportunities abound.

He met with several seminary directors and discussed plans to develop a course specifically designed to train the professors of their institutes to teach wholism in their schools. He will be returning next month to continue this dialogue and to finalize these plans for 2012.



We only have four more months to wait to be grandparents for the first time! Isn't our grandchild good looking?

([Click for more mother / baby photos.](#))

With all of our love and appreciation!

Robin and Susie Steen

[You can click here](#) to make donations for us directly on the Harvest website or you can send a check directly to the following address.

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[Click here to see more pictures.](#)

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Prayer Points:

- Please pray for the more than one million people that have been forced from their homes as a result of the floods.
- Pray that the floods would end soon and without more damage and loss of life.
- Pray for our friend in Myan.. who is presently "up-country" doing a vision conference.
- Our scheduled activities in Bangkok have been put on hold on account of the flooding. Please pray for us as we continue to work with the churches of Thailand that God would give us clear direction and anoint our efforts.