

# DeVine MINISTRIES

"Taking the gospel where it has never gone before"



May 2014 [www.jdevineministries.com](http://www.jdevineministries.com)

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Here's what is happening with Arisa and Ariya DeVine...



Songkran is the water festival that is celebrated as Thailand's New Year. Traditionally young people would pay respect to the elderly by pouring water over their head, hands and feet representing that their bad karma from their sins were washed away; giving them a new start in the coming year.



Many Thai people no longer celebrate Songkran to show respect to the elderly or to wash away the penalties of their sins, but instead just to have a massive water festival. Because it is the hottest time of the year here, it is enjoyable to play and splash each other but it has since strayed far from an appropriate water festival. The numbers of people that are injured from getting drunk, fighting, and killed in car accidents, climax during the three days of the festival. Many inappropriate and shameful things take place all year round but especially during this time.

This year we did not play Songkran in the city because of the things we have seen happen before. We are not afraid because we know God is with us, but God expects us to use wisdom. That did not keep us from having fun though. We had an amazing time filling our water guns with cold water and spraying each other in the yard.



Sometimes we'll be disappointed when we can't partake in something un-Godly even though it may look alright to do. When my sister and I were younger, we were sad that our parents wouldn't let us partake in all the Halloween activities we saw our neighborhood friends do. We now know the origins of Halloween, how it is a pagan holiday, and we didn't absolutely *need* to be involved. We *wanted* to be involved but God's word tells us what we should focus on.

*"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things." Philippians 4:8*

There is nothing wrong with having fun and being joyful, but it is not right to use that excuse to participate in something improper. No matter what may happen around us, we know that we can look to Jesus if we feel tempted and He will show us a way to overcome that temptation; which in our case, was resisting to play in the now dangerous and inappropriate festival and instead play as a family in our yard and just have good clean fun.

*"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." 1 Corinthians 10:13*

A lot of people we have met think that being a missionary isn't fun. "It's boring and you can't do anything exciting," they would say. We can tell you that living for God *is* fun and we don't have to be conformed to this world to feel happy.

*"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21*

God bless you,  
Arisa and Ariya DeVine

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