

What's in the Water?

*By Sheila Johnson*

Today I write to honor the young soccer team trapped in the caves of the beautiful country of Thailand. As I search for words to write, four sons of anxious mothers and fathers have been rescued while eight more along with their adult coach still hope and pray, along with much of the international world, that they will see daylight again.

I have had the opportunity to visit Thailand and experience a beautiful peace that is unique to the rest of the world. I think of the water logging that supports a large portion of the country's economy. I remember touring the intricate root system that rises above the river, displaying God's work of art. I can still see the women and children bathing in the water and filling up buckets of water to use for cooking and cleaning in their homes. There were small canals created by human hands that were used to float babies downstream to their mothers. Natural waterfalls laughed through the dense mountain rock that appeared to be held up by green marshes.

While drinking water was expensive in restaurants and the cost of having one's laundry done was almost unaffordable, water brings abundant life to Thailand. Recycled water is used in most Thai restaurants adding a rich flavor to the spicy dishes that delight the palette. Boiling water is used to mix the dye and paint that the artisans use to make gorgeous textiles.

What's in the water? Life is in the water. And yet today the world watches water falling from the sky, filling the caves, and prays for God to hold the rain until our sons and their coach can see blue skies again.

My mind turns and turns, moves from memory to memory, dances to music made by Thai flutes and strings, rises and rises until it salutes the sky. When it reaches the top of the universe, it will explode like the top of a whirlwind and everything contained in the quick moving cloud will float back down to earth and settle where our boys wait for the familiar.

What's in the water? There is life and death in the water. Hear our prayer, Lord.