

Women's MINISTRIES

AT SOUTH SHORE COMMUNITY CHURCH

September 2010

Getting to know...Terra Webster



Women's Ministry Team member Donna Webster recently interviewed her daughter-in-law who is married to Donna's oldest son, Chris. Terra and Chris are full time missionaries in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Many of you have supported their mission work with Pure Heart International by purchasing the jewelry that is made by the Thai women.

DONNA: Thanks for sitting with me and sharing about your life in Thailand. The ladies at South Shore are very interested in you and they sure love your jewelry. Will you share with us some of your history? Where did you grow up?

TERRA: I grew up in Lockport, New York which is just outside of Buffalo near Niagara Falls. I have one sister and 2 brothers, all younger. All four of us are married and serving the Lord. I grew up in a Christian home and my parents are leaders in our church. My Dad leads worship and plays keyboards, and my mom teaches Bible Studies.

DONNA: When did you first have a heart to do missions?

TERRA: I was about 25 years old and went on a short term mission trip to Mexico. This trip gave me the desire to travel to other countries and work with local churches in their efforts to share Jesus Christ.

DONNA: You serve in a ministry called Pure Heart International in Thailand. Tell us more about what you do.

TERRA: We recently resigned our positions working with PHI but for the last 5 years we served faithfully with them working with the local church here in Chiang Mai. We served in the capacity where we raised funds to help enable church growth. For example, one of our main projects was student homes. We raised money to help provide room and board, Bible training and general education for these students.

We are currently in transition. We feel that God has released us from our work here and are being led to return to the U.S. A lot of our future is still unclear since the transition is so new and there is uncertainty as to what God will have us do next.

DONNA: How did you choose Thailand?

TERRA: My husband Chris had been to Thailand with Teen Mania on a short-term mission trip. He felt that God was leading him to Thailand as a full-time missionary. Shortly after we were married we went together on a short-term mission trip to Panama. After that trip, we began to talk about Thailand and became excited about looking into opportunities to serve there. We established contact with a church representative and took a "scouting" trip to Chiang Mai to see if it would

work for us. That trip was horrible for me; I hated the smells, food, got sick and really hated Thailand. It took over a year for God to settle a peace in my heart, that it was his will for us to make the move.

DONNA: Was it easy to leave the U.S.?

TERRA: No, it was not easy leaving. At the time we had a one year old son and I was 6 months pregnant with twins. It was hard to leave friends, family and everything familiar, but God gave us a supernatural peace about the move.

DONNA: How many children do you have and what is it like to raise your children in a different culture?

TERRA: We have 4 boys. Levi is 5, the twins Ethan and Judah are 4, and Lucas was just born September 1st. Since we have only been raising the boys here in Thailand I don't have anything to compare with. The Thai people love our boys because they have fair hair and blue eyes. They especially love the twins and often mistake Levi thinking that the boys are triplets.

DONNA: How can we help support the Webster family?

TERRA: We want your prayers most of all as we are in a huge transition in our live. We are starting from scratch in many ways; moving back to the U.S. We need direction from the Lord and financial support as we finish out our time here. We will be moving back in December 2010, leaving all of our material things behind.

DONNA: What word of encouragement would you have for the women living in the United States?

TERRA: I would say that the biggest lesson learned from my time here is the importance of community and relationships. We periodically had other Americans in our lives as they lived here for a while, but then moved on. Many times we would go months without fellowship with other couples. This is not God's best. We would see people at church and say, "Hi" and "Goodbye," but that was the extent of our relationships.

God desires for us to have people in our lives to challenge us, to sharpen us and for us to just have fun with. Women need encouragement and confrontation on a regular basis from our sisters in Christ. The tendency is to run so fast in our lives that relationships are very shallow. The body of Christ suffers when we don't take the time to develop deeper relationships. I so enjoyed being part of a Women's Bible study here in our home with some other Americans where I received friendship as well as accountability in a small setting. The Bible studies made me realize how important these relationships are. They were a life-line to me. Women need to be in relationship with other women.

Thank you for the opportunity to share part of my life with you. Your support has made us feel that we really matter to you and that you are interested in our lives. Living in a foreign country can leave one feeling isolated. You have made us feel loved and a part of your church family. South Shore has been a tremendous encouragement to us.

DONNA: Women's Ministry really agrees with Terra. I Thessalonians 5:11 says, "Therefore, comfort each other and edify one another just as you also are doing." The past three years, Women's Ministry has worked hard at encouraging relationships between women. While God is to be our primary source of soul nourishment, like Terra said, we are not to be isolated from other human beings. God puts people in our lives to help encourage us as we live our lives here on this earth. We need each other!

Women's Ministry provides a variety of opportunities for ladies to connect. In addition to on going Bible studies and women's small groups, we encourage you to consider becoming involved in a Discipleship or mentoring relationship. Learn more about these types of relationships at <http://www.southshorechurch.com/pages/womensministry.cfm>.

Thank you, Terra for sharing and letting the family here at South Shore get to know you a little bit better. Your missions work in Thailand has been a real inspiration to all of us and you have impacted many lives for eternity.



You can learn more about Terra and Chris Webster and see the new jewelry at www.terramariajewelry.com

Written by Donna Webster



Donna has been a part of South Shore for 4 years and attends on Saturdays. Donna has been married to Dave for 33 years. Together they have two adult sons, Chris who is a missionary in Thailand with his wife Terra and Erik who lives here in Sarasota with his wife Becca. Donna is a proud grandmother of 6!

Donna loves serving women because she is a woman who loves to be encouraged, supported and challenged to grow in her walk with the Lord. Therefore, she in turn loves to do the same. She wants women to know who they are in Christ and how they walk with God everyday.