

## Søren Padkjær

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Dear Bedstemor Hildur.

It is time now to send you our greetings. Actually I intended to write an account from my trip to Thailand in February, but I have not had the time and/or inspiration. It was not a bad trip, but actually it did not quite fulfil my expectations:

I was traveling on my own with a backpack, and it was my intention to go to the most remote areas of the country. That is exactly what I did, but again I had to experience the truth of the fact that wherever you are and however remote – that place is the center of the world for the people who live there.

When preparing such a trip, my fantasy is sometimes running ahead of the realities and I envision something very exotic and unique. Places like the Golden Triange, the border to Burma, the Mekong River etc make my internal filmstrip run crazy. I actually went to all those places and more. However then when I reach the far away place – after a long, uncomfortable travel by truck – it consists of houses, people, noodles, just like most other Thai villages.

I guess that I have seen too much to be impressed any more, but fortunately my fantasy is still going strong. Actually I find that around the world – at the same latitude – most people have invented the same basic methods and are doing almost the same things, whether in Asia, Mexico or in some places in Africa.

Here in Denmark we have been blessed with the most wonderful summer weather, which has now lasted for a couple of weeks, and still there is no sign of any change: Sunshine, little or no wind, and not a drop of rain – most unusual here.

We have finally finished the house: The last small room from the old construction (actually the only remaining structure from the original house) has been remodelled with new floor, walls and windows. The roof was renewed during last years' work.

At present we are working on the outside tiles surrounding the house – Benthe is very eager to cover as much as possible with tiles in order to avoid that we drag dirt into the house. On the contrary I am more to the natural things and do not mind to leave my shoes in the hall. The same goes for the garden, which I like to be all nature.

Benthe is quite happy with her job by Grundfos, and she is working from 3 to 11

pm, which leaves her time to a good morning sleep and some work at home before setting off at 2.30. I am presently trying to learn how to construct homepages. I am making a site for my nephew, who has a construction company, for a couple of companies and for a local political party, which has elected me to be the chairman. Actually another member of the political board, Christian Erik Kampmann, has been living in Ipswich for several years when he was a teacher at the MIT, Boston.

We all send you our love, you are such a wonderful person and we still remember the visit with you as one of the absolute highlights of our trip. I imagine that your health has not improved, and we wish you all the best.