

DECEMBER FINANCIAL JOURNAL

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

- 99 Baht: lunch at KFC (yes, I feel terrible about this, not only did it taste horrible, but it was expensive! I wanted some from home comfort but instead I learned a valuable lesson...)
- 205 Baht for dinner at Earth Zone (Anneliese's birthday dinner... fun!)

Total Food/Drink and TOTAL: 304 Baht

Thursday, December 2, 2010

- 165 Baht @ Thai Post: Mailing Christmas cards home to America
- 45 Baht @ Coffee Zone: Delicious green tea blend shake
- 104 Baht @ 7-11: yogurt, dried fruits, nuts, coffee, water
- 30 Baht for dinner: Pad Krew Prau at the rice lady

Total Food/Drink: 179 Baht, Personal Total: 165 Baht, TOTAL: 344 Baht

Friday, December 3, 2010

- Family Mart: Raisin bread, orange juice box, water: 35 Baht
- Noonoy: 17 Baht for water and Thai iced tea
- 15 Baht for a Coca-Cola at the corner store
- Night Market: 30 Baht for curry, 25 Baht for fresh fruit smoothie
- 265 Baht at stationery store: pencils, pen, pencil sharpener, notebook

Total Food/Drink: 122 Baht, Total Personal: 265 Baht, TOTAL: 387 Baht

Saturday, December 4, 2010

- 20 Baht: tuk tuk to the bus station
- 230 Baht: Boat/bus ticket to Koh Samui
- 60 Baht: tuk tuk ride from ferry to hotel in Samui
- 500 Baht: hotel for two nights (split with Anneliese) in Samui
- 80 Baht @ 7-11: yogurts, waters, banana cakes, Ovaltine
- 30 Baht: split tuk tuk ride from Big Buddha Beach to Chaweng Beach, Samui
- 480 Baht @ Mexican restaurant in Chaweng – chips and salsa, fajitas, and margaritas.
- 50 Baht: Drink at a bar in Chaweng
- 175 Baht: late night tuk tuk ride back to Big Buddha Beach from Chaweng

Total Transportation: 515 Baht, Total Accommodation/Hotel (personal): 500 Baht, Total Food/Drink: 610 Baht, TOTAL: 1625 Baht

Sunday, December 5, 2010

- 100 Baht: split an awesome octopus shirt with Anneliese as a gift to Mitch; Captain of Team Octopus
- 250 Baht: Kanye West Teeshirt (for myself and totally worth it)
- 400 Baht: carved elephant figurine (Christmas present)
- 200 Baht: 4 really nice magnets (Christmas presents)
- 150 Baht: Candle (Christmas present)
- 257 Baht @ Bookazine: card and calendar (Christmas presents)
- 200 Baht: Sandwich at a café for lunch
- 175 Baht @ Starbucks (couldn't help myself!): Mocha Light Frappuccino; aaah a taste of America.
- 50 Baht donation to a mission/orphanage based in Samui
- 400 Baht: Dinner @ a really nice and delicious Indian food restaurant. Yum, so worth it.
- 140 Baht: Movie theater – to see the new Harry Potter movie. Not worth the 140 Baht, I am sorry to say.

Food/Drink Total: 775 Baht, Shopping Total (Personal): 1357 Baht, Personal Total: 190 Baht,

TOTAL: 2322 Baht

WEEKLY TOTAL: 4982 Baht

(Note: this is unusually high because of the trip to Koh Samui)

Monday, December 6, 2010

- 200 Baht: Meter taxi ride from the hotel to the ferry in Samui
- 75 Baht: noodles and mango shake for breakfast at a café near the ferry
- 230 Baht: Boat/Bus ticket back to Surat from Samui
- 30 Baht: tuk tuk ride home from bus station
- 30 Baht: dinner at the Night Market

Total Transportation: 460 Baht, Total Food/Drink: 105 Baht, TOTAL: 565 Baht

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

- Tuk Tuk to Noonoy: 15 Baht (It was raining like crazy so I didn't want to ride my bike!)
- 91 Baht @ 7-11: 2 Gossip magazines (75 Baht; to cut photos out of to use as a teaching aid/activity), breakfast, water.
- Tuk Tuk to Super English: 20 Baht
- 17 Baht @ Tops: large apple
- 30 Baht for dinner: Pad kreaw prau at the rice lady

Total Transportation: 35 Baht, Total Food/Drink: 63 Baht, Total Personal: 75 Baht,

TOTAL: 173 Baht

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

- 30 Baht for lunch: Pad Kreaw Prau
- 15 Baht for a Coca-Cola before Super English classes
- 40 Baht for dinner: Isan chicken and sticky rice
- 33 Baht @ 7-11: 2 banana cakes and an ice cream bar

Total Food/Drink and TOTAL: 118 Baht

Thursday, December 9, 2010

- 85 Baht @ Coffee Zone: Green tea blend & slice of banana pie
- 30 Baht for dinner: Pad Kreaw Prau at the rice lady
- 199 Baht at the Night Market for a new watch
- 300 Baht: 1-2-Call phone credit
- Thailand Post: 4,457 Baht... this is totally insane, I know. I mailed home several Christmas gifts, to more than one address. I chose regular airmail, which takes two weeks. The cost was so high because it usually is, some of the gifts were heavy, and I shipped to more than one address/ had more than one box. This was not a typical purchase and many teachers do not do this. Thank goodness Christmas only comes once a year! This expense hurts to admit!

Total Food/Drink: 115 Baht, Total Personal: 4956 Baht, TOTAL: 5071 Baht

Friday, December 10, 2010

- 26 Baht @ Tops: Water and an apple
- 55 Baht @ Coffee Zone: Green Tea Blend
- 10 Baht @ corner store: Oishi Strawberry Green Tea juice box
- 30 Baht for lunch: Chicken curry with rice
- 100 Baht @ 7-11: 30 Baht pencil/pen/ruler set, waters, 7-Up, yogurt, Ovaltine: 70 Baht
- 65 Baht for dinner at the night market: fried chicken with sticky rice and two spring rolls

Food/Drink Total: 256 Baht, Personal Total: 30 Baht, TOTAL: 286 Baht

Saturday, December 11, 2010

- 6 Baht @ 7-11: Water
- 55 Baht for lunch: cow soi gai at the Isan place... yummy curry soup
- 360 Baht at Pacific Plaza: t-shirts (2) for my brother for his birthday
- 75 Baht @ Amphur Coffee Shop: Strawberry Smoothie and a bottle of water
- 30 Baht for dinner: Pad Kreaw Prau at the rice lady
- 25 Baht for a strawberry smoothie at the night market
- 120 Baht for an amazing t-shirt (for myself, whoops) at the night market
- 150 Baht at the movies! Yes, we went and saw a movie at the Coliseum that had English subtitles... it was some really rad Samurai movie and totally worth the cost.

Food/Drink Total: 191 Baht, Total Personal: 630 Baht, TOTAL: 821 Baht

Sunday, December 12, 2010

- 380 Baht for laundry at the really good laundry place; again it should be noted that this is ridiculously high and that the same amount of laundry could be done for about 70 Baht at the other laundry place... but there was mold all over my work clothes and these women are just incredible. Again, everything came back like-new clean and smelling great. They're the best cleaners ever.
- 40 Baht for lunch: cow Soi at the Isan place
- 40 Baht at Coffee Zone for a cold green iced tea
- 10 Baht @ corner store for two bottles of water
- 30 Baht for dinner: Pad Kreaw Prau Gai at the rice lady
- 20 Baht @ the fruit stand: two large apples
- 130 Baht @ 7-11: 20 Baht for Mr. Sang's oil to stop the incessant itching of my many many mosquito bites, 100 Baht 1-2-Call phone credit, and 10 for raisin bread for breakfast tomorrow.

Total Food/Drink: 150 Baht, Total Personal: 500 Baht, TOTAL: 650 Baht

WEEKLY TOTAL: 7,684 Baht

note: this is unusually high due to shipping Christmas presents home to America

Monday, December 13, 2010

- 37 Baht @ 7-11: two bottles of water and a small bag of cashew nuts
- 1050 Baht for three bus/ferry tickets (advance purchase) for my father, brother and I to Koh Samui for Monday, Dec. 27th.
- 255 Baht @ Sahathai: body spray, hand sanitizer, and Ritz crackers and Skippy peanut butter (the peanut butter and crackers are for my P4 class at Noonoy so that they can try some American snack food tomorrow)
- 30 Baht for lunch: yellow chicken curry with white rice
- 230 Baht at the night market for a new skirt (whoops)
- 40 Baht for dinner: Seafood Pad Kreaow Prau at a different rice lady... and amazing!
- 5 Baht at corner store for a water

Total Food/Drink: 112 Baht, Total Personal: 1535 Baht, TOTAL: 1647 Baht

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

- 28 Baht @ 7-11: 3 bottles of water, banana cake
(free lunch at Noonoy)
- 5 Baht @ Super English for a snack
- 40 Baht for dinner: Chicken with rice and a fried egg.

Food/Drink Total and TOTAL: 73 Baht

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

- 27 Baht at Family Mart: 2 waters and a yogurt
(free lunch at Thida)
 - 210 Baht at the pharmacy: contact cleaning solution (so expensive! But comparable to American prices...)
 - 377 Baht at Sahathai: shampoo, conditioner, hair repair crème, body wash, baby powder, body spray. Expensive, but this is the first time since I have been here that I have had to buy any of these things, so relatively speaking not too bad.
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- 50 Baht at the Night Market for dinner: chicken nuggets (20 baht) and chicken curry and rice dish (30 baht)... clearly I was just a little bit hungry

Total Food/Drink: 77 Baht, Total Personal: 587 Baht, TOTAL: 664 Baht

Thursday, December 16, 2010

- 25 Baht @ 7-11: two bottles of water and a yogurt
- 55 Baht for lunch at the Isan place: cow soi gai... yummmm
- 37 Baht @ ThailandPost (the post office): mailing a letter to USA
- 10 Baht for a snack before teaching at Super English
- 30 Baht for dinner: chicken and rice dish at the night market
- 40 Baht for bathing water (we currently have no water at the house, but this is a known problem and we are moving out soon)

Total Food/Drink: 120 Baht, Total Personal: 77 Baht, TOTAL: 197 Baht

Friday, December 17, 2010

- 28 Baht @ 7-11: 3 bottles of water and a banana cake for breakfast
(free lunch at Noonoy)
- 5 Baht for cookies before Super English
- 30 Baht for dinner: pad krew prau gai at the rice lady
- 166 Baht @ 7-11: 3 bottles of water (18 baht), a bag of cashews (35 baht), a new pair of flip flops, and a key ring for my brother for his birthday.

Total Food/Drink: 116 Baht, Total Personal: 113 Baht, TOTAL: 229 Baht

Saturday, December 18, 2010

Miraculously I did not spend any money at all today. I ate breakfast at home, had plenty of water already, and then Peter treated all of the Super English teachers to a day of Muay Thai (where I ate three oranges for lunch) and an amazing dinner and dessert at a really nice Isan restaurant. Amazing!

TOTAL: 0 Baht

Sunday, December 19, 2010

- 1,796 Baht @ Big-C: notebook paper, plastic paper protectors, toilet paper, tan top, dress, 5 Happy New Years cards for the Noonoy staff, 5 Ferrero Rocher gift packages for the Noonoy staff, two bottles of Sang's oil for bug bites. (The most expensive part of this—about 1,500-- was the gifts and the cards for the staff at Noonoy: this was not a necessary purchase.)

- 33 Baht @ 7-11: water and peanuts

- 40 Baht at the fruit stand: 2 apples and a package of green grapes

Total Food/Drink: 73 Baht, Total Personal: 1,796 Baht, TOTAL: 1, 869 Baht

WEEKLY TOTAL: 4,679 Baht

Note: this is unusually high due to the purchase of ferry tickets to Samui and the purchase of New Years gifts for the staff at Noonoy school.

Monday, December 20, 2010

- 93 Baht @ 7-11: 3 bottles of water, rain bread, sesame cashews, peanuts, strawberry yogurt.

- 238 Baht for two pairs of flip flops for my little brother so that he has some for the beach next week!

- 40 Baht for lunch: chicken with rice from the night market

- 29 Baht @ 7-11: 1 large and 1 small bottle of water, 1 banana cake

Total Food/Drink: 162 Baht, Total Personal: 238 Baht, TOTAL: 400 Baht

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

- 69 Baht at 7-11: hair gel (18 baht), 3 bottles of water, strawberry yogurt, pens (20 baht)

- 20 Baht tuk tuk ride to Noonoy

(free lunch at Noonoy)

- 15 Baht tuk tuk ride from Noonoy to Super English

- 40 Baht for dinner: rice with chicken and vegetables.

Total Food/Drink: 71 Baht, Total Transportation: 35 Baht, Total Personal: 38 Baht,

TOTAL: 144 Baht

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

- 154 Baht @ Sahathai: green and red colored paper for Thida & Super English kids to make Christmas cards with.
- 342 Baht @ 7-11: 1 bottle of red wine for my head teacher/school owner at Noonoy (299 baht), 1 Happy New Year card for her (16 baht), 2 bottles of water (12 baht) and one loaf of bread (15 baht).

Food Total: 27 Baht, Total Personal: 469 Baht, TOTAL: 496 Baht

Thursday, December 23, 2010

(I didn't really eat much today because I wasn't feeling well, so I ate bread at home and rice at the Thida Christmas party).

- 285 Baht for laundry: Again I went to the really expensive place where they do an exemplary job because I had some serious mold problems going on...

Personal Total and TOTAL: 285 Baht

Friday, December 24, 2010

- 40 Baht tuk tuk ride to Noonoy (it was so expensive because I had luggage with me)
- 7 Baht for water at Noonoy
- 50 Baht for internet access card at travel company
- 100 Baht for bus ride to the airport
- 200 Baht for 1 kilo of oranges at the airport
- 10 Baht for water at the airport
- 490 Baht for dinner at BKK airport

Total Transportation: 140 Baht, Total Personal: 50 Baht, Total Food/Drink: 707 Baht,

TOTAL: 897 Baht

Saturday, December 25, 2010

* I was with my father, which meant that (I am a huge spoiled brat and) I didn't have to pay for anything, so I didn't keep track.

TOTAL: 0 Baht

Sunday, December 26, 2010

* I was with my father, which meant that (I am a huge spoiled brat and) I didn't have to pay for anything, so I didn't keep track.

TOTAL: 0 Baht

WEEKLY TOTAL: 2,222 Baht

Monday, December 27, 2010

* I was with my father, which meant that (I am a huge spoiled brat and) I didn't have to pay for anything, so I didn't keep track.

TOTAL: 0 Baht

Tuesday, December 28, 2010

* I was with my father, which meant that (I am a huge spoiled brat and) I didn't have to pay for anything, so I didn't keep track.

TOTAL: 0 Baht

Wednesday, December 29, 2010

* I was with my father, which meant that (I am a huge spoiled brat and) I didn't have to pay for anything, so I didn't keep track.

TOTAL: 0 Baht

Thursday, December 30, 2010

* I was with my father, which meant that (I am a huge spoiled brat and) I didn't have to pay for anything, so I didn't keep track.

TOTAL: 0 Baht

Friday, December 31, 2010

* I was with my father, which meant that (I am a huge spoiled brat and) I didn't have to pay for anything, so I didn't keep track.

TOTAL: 0 Baht

WEEKLY TOTAL: 0 Baht

MONTHLY FOOD/DRINK TOTAL: 4,526 Baht, MONTHLY TRANSPORT

TOTAL: 1,185 Baht, MONTHLY PERSONAL TOTAL: 13,856 Baht

DECEMBER GRAND TOTAL: 19,567 Baht

REFLECTIONS ON DECEMBER'S FINANCIAL JOURNAL:

First of all, OMG. Seeing how large my Personal Total is kind of makes me feel like crap. Here are the excuses I would like to make for this enormous amount of money spent: First off, it was Christmas time so I spent a lot of money on Christmas and New Year's presents for friends, family, and coworkers. This is something that certainly is unique to the month of December and definitely will not happen again. Second, I did go to Koh Samui for a weekend, and accommodation and shopping there got the best of me. Third, mailing presents home killed me. It is just so expensive to mail presents home. Luckily I was able to send some birthday presents I had bought in advance for people in the United States home with my father and brother, who will ship them within the United States for a fraction of the cost. I can promise you, and myself, that this month is an anomaly and that my personal total will not be that high in January.

I am also so grateful that my father came to visit me for the holidays and (although it's somewhat embarrassing to admit as a 27 year old woman) spoiled me like a small child so that I did not have to spend my own money while in Bangkok, Samui, and Phuket. I know I probably sound like a huge brat, but I'm actually okay with that. It was awesome.

Again, I am surprised. I spent almost 20,000 Baht this month, which by any account is an absurd amount to spend while living in Surat Thani. I still, however, spent about 7,000 Baht less than what I made in the month of December. So the lesson of the December Financial Journal remains the same as that of the November Financial Journal: even if you're a financially irresponsible moron like me, you can still manage to save money while working for Super English and living in Surat Thani.