

The SEARLES in THAILAND

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The family is well! We welcomed another great-grandson a couple of weeks ago, bringing our total to five great-grands and 29 grandchildren. My sleep apnea is doing better since I have been using a CPAP machine at night, they told me that I was getting about 3 hours of sleep a night.

We now have a branch for our foundation in NakornNayok, which simplifies our visa and work permit process. Previously, we had to handle paperwork in Bangkok, 60 miles away. We were also granted a one-year visa. It eliminates a LOT of running around in a very congested city.

It's easy to get people to pray, attend church, or be baptized with \$25 worth of food, but helping them see God and recognize their need for a Savior requires The Lord showing through his people. Recently, Wat, a 35-year-old paraplegic, came to Christ after months of prayer, witnessing, and practical help. We also baptized Beck, a 25-year-old teacher who has been attending church for close to eight months. A colleague of hers has been witnessing and clarifying biblical concepts like the existence of God, sin, and forgiveness. The concept of forgiveness is very foreign to the Thai. Their thought process is, I forgive you but I will remember till the day I die. If I ask for forgiveness there is a significant gift that must accompany it.

I spoke with Pastor Jerry George, about the spiritual growth of church members. He shared that most congregants don't read their Bibles, referencing Ephesians 5:26 about being cleansed by the Word. I asked my congregation to anonymously note how many chapters of the Bible they had read the previous week, and I realized that my messages needed to go in a slightly different direction.

In Nong Khai, I'm collaborating with another missionary in the north to provide church access for the people in the village. Though it's an hour's drive every other week, 5 to 10 people make the trek, while a Thai preacher visits on off weeks. This is a promising situation.

We spent a couple of days with Tan, the last young man in our home. He's struggling with feelings of guilt over Glah's death and worries about Grandma Rune, who is 96. We plan to bring him down for a few weeks in October. He's grown significantly since last October and is now as tall as Maureen, which means a shopping trip! Grandma Rune is recovering after a month in the hospital; I feared she would soon go home to be with the Lord, which would have been a great loss for us, but infinitely better for her.

Thank you for your love, prayers, and support.

Growing together with the Thai,

Tim & Maureen