

Thailand News

JUNE 2007

As I sit here writing this, a most interesting thing has occurred and is occurring this morning. There is no school today (Thursday) because it's a Buddhist holiday. The Bible students, however, are studying today. It rained all night last night and it was still cloudy and overcast this morning as everyone was eating breakfast. Shortly after 8 AM there was a break in the clouds and the sun starting shining through. It was so bright that I couldn't even look at where the sun was shining. But Nee and Mai were staring intently at the sun. Nee started crying. One of the other girls explained to me that the sun wasn't bright at all and that Nee was crying because she was happy. Now, about 30 minutes later, both girls are singing praise songs with all of their hearts to the Lord and Mai is playing guitar. The same thing happened to Seng La, one of the new Bible students. She stared at the sun through an opening in the clouds for over 30 minutes, just crying and praising God. Quite honestly, I've never seen anything like it, but it's made me start to think about God in a totally different way than I ever have before.

We also had the great privilege of having a short term mission team here from Singapore for a few days. There were 18 of them. This particular church in Singapore has been bringing teams to Thailand for about 16 or 17 years. They started a Bible College in Bangkok about 15 years ago. Since then, they keep track of the previous students and follow up with them and go to visit them and encourage them. The leader of the team is an awesome man of God. Ajaan Suria was one of their former students and that is how they ended up here. We had worship for 2 nights, last Saturday night and then again Monday night, both nights until almost midnight. The Holy Spirit moved in a mighty and powerful way both nights.

I believe the Lord is getting ready to move in a mighty way and to pour out

His Spirit on all of us here. Please join us in praying for this.

Overall, it's been a smooth start to the school year. All 6 girls are doing well and are in the midst of a flurry of homework. Once again, there are changes. What on earth would we do without changes in our lives???? It just wasn't working out with Peter and Esther taking care of the girls, so they have stepped down and we are currently looking for a Hmong woman to come and work directly with the girls. In the meantime, I am looking after them again. It's been a difficult transition, but I believe this will be much better in the long run. It also puts learning Hmong on the backburner temporarily.

PLEASE PRAY FOR A HMONG WOMAN WITH A HEART FOR TEENAGERS TO COME AND WORK DIRECTLY WITH THE GIRLS. I LOVE THE GIRLS, BUT I KNOW THE BEST THING IS FOR A HMONG WHO ALREADY KNOWS THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE TO COME AND WORK DIRECTLY WITH THEM AND I WOULD BE HERE AS AN ADVISOR ONLY, AND SPEND MORE TIME TEACHING AND TRAINING.

The new school year for the Bible students opened this last week. The 6 students from last year have returned for their second year of study. It's been so good to see them back this year. There are currently 6 new students this year with 3 more on the way this week. Out of the new students, 4 are from Laos, and the rest are from Thailand. This is a huge praise as we have been praying for more students from Laos for quite a while.

I would like to relate the following story as it illustrates so well the need for trained pastors and teachers as well as explaining some of the trials that many of the Bible students come from.

David is a 2nd year Bible student here from Laos. The pastor at his home church is sick with diabetes. (Please remember this is Laos, where health care is sub standard to say the least, and non-existent in some places, and unaffordable for many Hmong.) His diabetes is worsening at a fast rate of speed, and no one really knows how much time he has left. He is the only pastor/leader there that has had any Bible training at all. There is one other leader who has taken a few Bible seminars, but that is all. David is here for his 2nd year of studying and during the 2 month break in March/April, he spent a lot of time teaching and sharing and working with the youth in his church. He's now very concerned and worried about his pastor and his church members. He sometimes feels like he could be doing so much more there than here, but at the same time he realizes that this training is extremely important to his future ministry. I pray God blesses your little socks off today, and please continue to keep me and the ministry here in prayer. This has been a very difficult time for me emotionally and spiritually, so much so that I believe I have been under spiritual attack over the last month.

God bless you.
Susan



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