

Thailand News

October 2007

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

GOINGS ON THIS PAST SEPTEMBER:

The month of September has seen the girls come to the end of the first semester this year. They are in the midst of a flurry of preparation for finals. They are all doing well, and are looking forward to going home for the break, about 2 weeks. They are all doing well in school and I am very proud of them.

We've also had some visitors. We had a group of Korean missionaries come here. They have a goal of planting a church in every Hmong village in the province of Chiang Rai that doesn't already have a church. This is quite a lofty goal considering the fact that there are no pastors to pastor these churches. But they love Hmong people and have a desire to see Hmong people come to know the Lord. So, I'm standing in faith with them that God will provide pastors for these churches.

I also had the opportunity to go to a women's retreat in Chiang Mai Sept. 21-23. It was a blessed time to just get away and the worship was awesome! It's been a while since I've been able to just "be" and worship the Lord. It was a precious time.

The last few weeks have been really quiet around here because the Bible students have been studying in Kalae village, about an hour and a half away from here. They are staying at the church in the village. They are having a great time there. They study during the day and go on outreaches and visit people in the village in the evening. It's been a good experience for them. There is no pastor at this church and the students have had many opportunities to share with non-believers and encourage the believers. They said they like studying there more than here in Chiang Khong! But it's been difficult as well. Because the cook is here in Chiang Khong, they have to cook all of their own meals and the

water comes sporadically at best. So, many times they are unable to wash dishes or take showers until after they have carried water up from the river. (Yes, in case you're wondering, they do indeed have drinking water that was bought from the store.)

BIBLE STUDENTS AT 4 YEAR BIBLE COLLEGES:

I would like to share a little about the Bible students that are currently studying at 4 year Bible colleges. I haven't shared much about them lately, and I ask your forgiveness in that. I hope and pray these testimonies bless your little socks off!!



NAI is currently in her 2nd year of Bible College and she is doing well. She is going on an outreach to a remote village with other classmates during the 2 week school break this October. This is a student led outreach, not a mandated school thing. It is so exciting to see how God has taken this very shy girl who at one point refused to stand up in front of children to lead worship and has sent her to share the gospel in a village she's never been to!! Nai asks for prayer for her home church. Studying in Bangkok has enabled her to attend different churches and see different styles of worship. She says that when she goes back home, the Christians in her home village aren't really serious with God and for them going to church is just ceremony. She wants to see revival in her home church!



KUA is doing really well. I'll let him share with you in his own words how he's doing.

"This year I am on the student council and president of 2nd year students. It's making me rely on God more than I ever have before. I am the representative between the students and staff. I also work at the school part time. But, praise God, even though I'm not very good at studying, God is using my life to be a blessing to others around me. When other students don't understand their homework, or when they are studying for tests, they come and ask me for help. My favorite subject is music. I can already play the guitar and now I'm learning to play the keyboard. This term I am also teaching music. I would like to ask you to pray for me that my ministry would be a blessing to others and that I would be blessed in return, and also that I would see the greatness of God. Pray also that I would be humble and that God would use my life more and more."



PAWN is doing really well. I was concerned when she first started Bible College that she wouldn't finish, but she's now in her 2nd year, and is doing well. She says there have been many times when she wanted to give up and go home but God wouldn't let her. She is learning patience and endurance. She is also studying the Thai equivalent of a GED on Saturdays as well as studying Bible. Every Sunday she goes to a local church and teaches children. She asks for prayer in this because many of the children are not from Christian homes and don't know the Lord. They are unruly, don't listen very well and Pawn has no help from anyone else in the church. But when she talks about the children, you can see she really loves the children.

I can relate to what Pawn said about wanting to quit. This last year has been difficult and to be honest there have been times that I have been ready to throw in the towel. But God won't let me. I would like to share a vision that God gave me a few weeks ago when I took the Bible students to Kalae village. I was standing at the back of the church, and all you can see is a gully right behind the church and then mountains covered in green and trees galore beyond that. It's a breathtaking sight. As I was standing there, looking up at the mountains, I thought about how easy it looked to scale the mountain and get to the top. But first I would have to descend into the gully and up the other side and even though it looked easy to scale the mountain from that vantage point, I knew it wouldn't be easy. God spoke to my heart in that minute and said that He wanted to take me to the very top of the mountain, but before that could happen, I would have to go down into the gully. I told God that I didn't really want to go because I was scared. I didn't really know what would await me down in that gully. God said "it's ok – I'm with you and I will be with you. Let's go." I hesitated and then told God that I was ready to go with Him wherever He would lead, and that I wanted to go to the mountaintop with Him. To be honest, I have no idea what awaits in that gully for me over the next few months/years, but I know He is with me, taking my hand and leading me, and that's

enough for me. I know that when we get to the mountaintop, it will be more than worth it.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Pray for wisdom from the Lord that I would know how to discipline and encourage the girls. I don't always know, and I desperately need God's help.
2. Pray for revival in Nai's home church and for her as she goes on outreach.
3. Pray for Kua's ministry that he would be a blessing to those around him and for a humble heart.
4. Pray for Pawn that she would be stand firm in her faith and in the calling that God has placed on her life.
5. Pray for a Hmong woman to come work with the girls here at the girls house.
6. Pray for revival among Hmong Christians and in Hmong churches. Pray for a mighty move of the Holy Spirit.
7. Pray for unity among the staff here in Chiang Khong and also among the board members.



Thank you for partnering with me in this ministry. We serve by God's grace and His grace alone.

In Jesus,

Susan

CONTACT INFORMATION:

SNAIL MAIL:

PO BOX 99
Chiang Khong
Chiang Rai 57140
Thailand

PHONE:

+66 84613-8121

WEB ADDRESS:

www.calvarycg.org/sstaples

EMAIL:

susanmarie777@hotmail.com

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

Make checks payable to Shepherd's Staff and write my account number –

2057 - on the memo of the check not my name and send to:

Shepherd's Staff

PO Box 27220

Albuquerque, NM 87125

Cut and send with contributions

I would like to help:

2057

\$_____ Susan Staples

\$_____ send student(s) to Bible College

\$_____ Hmong Bible Training Center

\$_____ Somboon College

DON'T FORGET:

For your convenience, you can make online donations:

Go to www.shepsstaff.org Select *how can I help*; Select *donate* Click on *donate directly online*. You will also need my account number, **2057**.