

THAILAND TEAM UPDATE – DECEMBER 2020

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SUNSET FROM DOI SUTHEP, NEAR CHIANG MAI (PHOTO CREDITS, JAMES)

*“Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, **I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord.**”*

Luke 2:9-11

Dear Family & Friends -

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!

These words give us much reason to rejoice and be glad, whatever circumstances we find ourselves in. Because He has come, and is coming again, we can know for certain that He will work all things out for His glory and for the good of His people. He kept His promise to send the world a Savior, and He will keep His promise to bring justice and peace to the world as well. We can rest and be still as we see the uncertainty of world events, knowing that God's plan is unfolding before us and will bring a good outcome for those who are in Christ.

For those who are not in Christ, this is a time to seek the Lord and His truth. He will reveal Himself to You as You take that one step toward Him and continue to seek Him with all your heart. I guarantee you will not be disappointed. Invite Jesus to be your Emmanuel, God with us, today.

Although we will not have any family coming to see us this Christmas due to travel restrictions, we will be having two Korean students stay with us for the Christmas break as they are not able to return to Korea. Please pray that Jinki and Bastien and our family will be blessed as we spend this time together, celebrating the birth of the Messiah and the coming of God to dwell among us.

Next semester will bring some big changes for Carol as she will transition from filling in for the 6th grade teacher who was ill, to being a full time 7th and 8th grade language arts teacher. Although it is a somewhat daunting assignment for her, she looks forward to teaching students she had when they were in 5th and 6th grade and also teaching Hannah's class again next year if all goes well! Please pray for her as she plans the next semester and takes on the added responsibilities of having her own classroom.

Rob continues to focus his attention on assisting Joshua Chan with the Lahu Living Word (LLW) Project, focusing on developing the Biblical Leadership Training (BLT) to help equip the indigenous village pastors to preach, teach, disciple, counsel and shepherd the believers in the village churches and bring the gospel to new areas. Rob's new position with Family connections Foundation (FCF) is the Leadership Development Coordinator for the LLW Project.

Rob's role of organizing, planning, developing and coordinating the BLT program for LLW has been a great blessing to Joshua Chan and his wife. While having lunch at Joshua's home recently, Joshua said to Rob, *“I'm finally getting these things done and in order. I have been praying to the Lord to send help for years, and you (Rob) are the answer to our prayers ... Hallelujah!”* What a blessing to be a blessing!!

One common challenge facing most village pastors is the necessity of working part-time while serving in the ministry: bi-vocational pastors are the norm in the villages. Rob has been able to coordinate and plan with Joshua Chan how we could invite other believers to assist these pastors and evangelists in developing businesses to help support their families working part-time while serving the church part-time. Here are some projects we initiated that the Lord may have you invest in:

*** LLW Children's Resources Translation Project - Click [TRANSLATION PROJECT](#)

*** LLW Evangelist Homestay Project - Click [EVANGELIST HOMESTAY PROJECT](#)

*** LLW Pastor Pig Farm Project - Click [PASTOR FARM PROJECT](#)

*** LLW Truck Replacement Project - Click [TRUCK PROJECT](#)

***** *If the Lord has blessed you this year with extra resources, please pray and ask the Lord if He would have you invest in one of these projects to provide the tools to help these faithful servants in Thailand provide for their families and preach the gospel of the Kingdom.***

Below we have listed our previous prayer requests in regular type and the answers/updates following in italic type. After these updates we have listed our current prayer requests.

PLEASE JOIN US IN GIVING THANKS FOR.....

- A new student boarder to stay in our extra room in our house.
 - *Praise the Lord - we will have 2 students stay with us over the December break that we were not expecting. Also, we have confirmed that Lukas will stay with us beginning next year in July and stay the entire 2021-2022 school year, and maybe for several years as he will be a freshman next year. We also are talking with a family in Singapore who would like their son John to stay for the 2021-2022 school year as well. This would be great to help us meet our financial need and be able to serve these families serving the Lord in southeast Asia.*
- Carol as she fills in for a sixth grade teacher who is out for the semester due to health issues. This is Hannah's class which Carol has worked with in the last two years. She knows and loves these students well and is grateful to have returned from America just in time to meet this need. Please pray for the teacher, Anna, who is from the UK, not to lose heart but recover fully and be able to return to her work.
 - *Another praise as Anna is feeling much better and feels up to taking on her full responsibilities next semester. Please pray for continued strength for her.*
- Guidance and wisdom as Rob serves with the LLW team and develops the training modules for the Biblical Leadership Training (BLT) with the main theme of "Be Like Jesus."
 - *The LLW Advisory Board is favorable to revising the BLT training curriculum to follow the theme of "Be Like Jesus." We will cover 6 themes each year, 1 week of training per year on each theme: Be Like Jesus in Personal Discipline, Understanding the Scripture, Teaching, Preaching, Building the Church and Leading the Church. Each year will build on the last training and explore the theme more deeply, with great emphasis on practical application.*
- For the funding to come together so we can start the translation project in the Lahu language for the Good Soil Story of Hope resources.
 - *We now have a spot on our webpage where people can give to this project: Click [TRANSLATION PROJECT](#) We continue to pray the Lord will send the funding so we can provide the resources to encourage the Lahu churches in desperate need of teaching materials for the children and youth.*
- Our dear adult children in the States that they would continue to grow nearer to God and see His goodness in every aspect of their lives.
 - *We are grateful we can stay in touch with our adult children and encourage them to look to the Lord as they face the challenges of life. Only the Lord can give us the right perspective on any situation so that we can endure through it and grow better, not become bitter.*

PLEASE DRAW NEAR TO THE THRONE OF GRACE ON OUR BEHALF FOR.....

- Carol as she begins teaching 7th and 8th grade language arts in January. Her biggest challenges will be the organizational and technical side as she plans lessons and learns how to fully implement Google classroom. Please also pray for her as she

seeks to link literature to biblical principles and helps the students to make connections between what they are learning and the truths of God's word.

- Guidance and wisdom as Rob develops the training modules for the Biblical Leadership Training (BLT) with the main theme of "Be Like Jesus." He will be focusing on the Biblical family, providing training and counseling to church leaders who were married as Buddhists who now want to get "re-married" as Christians with a Biblical perspective on marriage and the home.
- Insight and understanding to develop an Appendix for the Lahu Christian Correspondence Course (LCCC) that will focus on the basics of Bible reading and interpretation, as well as establishing the mindset of being a life-long follower and learner of Jesus. The completion of the LCCC is not the end to their Biblical learning, it is only the start of life-long journey of following and serving the Messiah Jesus.
- Funding for the various projects we are promoting to provide investment capital to BLT graduates to start small businesses, to meet their financial needs and allow more time to serve the members of their churches and communities.
- James stays focused on his studies and does his work with excellence, *even though* he does not see the value of such studies at this time. The main goal is not to collect knowledge of various subjects, but rather, it is to build character that learns the value of discipline, delayed rewards, integrity, honesty and excellence.

We are so thankful for you who have partnered with us, making it possible for us to serve the Lord in Thailand for the last two and half years - hard to believe it's been that long! May the Lord bless your year with His presence, His power, and His hope that brings peace and joy in every and all circumstances.

Until all nations sing His praise,

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James & Hannah
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Serving with Family Connections Foundation

***** For those of you who would like to join our ministry team and help us financially, please visit our website [HERE](#). Click the DONATE button and complete with the giving details. Your investment in the Lord's work over there, makes our ministry possible over here. *****

Scan the QR Code to visit our webpage:



Please enjoy some recent pics of our life and ministry in Thailand on the next few pages.



Rob teaching Sunday morning with interpreter at Kruu Goi's Creator Church.



Carol and I enjoying some of our "adopted" grandkids in Thailand. These are Kruu Goi's kids, Joshua and Cheetah.



Kruu Goi and his wife Nade with their youngest son Cheetah. Kruu Goi is a seminary student, pastor of Creator Church, and works part-time - love to serve this family!



The Lahu evangelist Se-Lah and his mother preparing dinner for us at their home in Mae Ngat Noi, northeast of Phrao about an hour.



Dinner is ready!



Ajaan Joshua and Selah's step father at the Homestay property in Mae Ngat Noi.



Near Mae Hong Son, we took some back roads to a nearby village to visit with church leaders.



Doi Pha Ngom peak near Evangelist Selah's Homestay property in Mae Ngat Noi village.



Enjoying dinner with Brother Andrew and his wife of Nong Khiaw. We are planning to provide BLT training to his church leaders and members in Spring of 2021.



Ajaan Joshua and I attended a Thanksgiving celebration in Nong Khiao with some church leaders at the Lahu Church #2. Many villages came to sing traditional songs.



Rob received the honor of handing out the first bag of food to the village leader and also praying a blessing over the community.



Rob is serving on the board of the Bread for Life program at FCF, which sometimes involves loading 110 bags of food supplies to be delivered to needy families due to Covid-19.



Here is the food distribution team: Rob, Damrong's wife, Damrong, and Ajaan Joshua.



Rob & Ajaan Joshua delivered 65 bags to a Lahu village about 2 hours north of Chiang Mai. The food goes to any families in need due to Covid-19 economic slow down.



Ajaan Joshua was able to deliver some more food supplies to families near BLT graduate and pastor Ca-Keu west of Mae Rim.



We made the trip out to Mae Hong Son (6 hours northwest of Chiang Mai) at the request of the church leaders among the Black Lahu tribes. Many of these church leaders desire to be better trained to teach and preach the word, and lead their churches. There is need for literacy training so they can complete the LCCC 10-part training and the BLT for those desiring more training.



We stayed overnight at this small church outside of Mae Hong Son. These are some of the church pastors and leaders desiring to be equipped to better teach and lead.



Hannah and I had a chance to visit the Night Safari Zoo recently and see some critters up close, like this iguana - which Hannah wanted to take home!



Sometimes the ride to school is on a motorcycle in Thailand, which can be rather cool in the morning - yet always fun!



Recently dressed up for a wedding - time for a few photos.....



JAMES ENJOYING A THAI SUNRISE FROM THE JUNGLES.



ROB, JAMES AND OUR FRIEND JEREMY MADE IT TO THE TOP OF DOI PUI PEAK.



JAMES TOOK HIS FRIEND CALLI TO A HIGH SCHOOL BANQUET.



SOME "MONKEYS" FOUND A BIG VINE TO SWING AROUND ON. HANNAH AND ROB ENJOYED WATCHING THE "MONKEYS" PLAY AROUND.



HANNAH ENJOYING A WALK THROUGH ONE OF THE MANY ROYAL GARDENS IN THAILAND.