

THAILAND TEAM UPDATE – March 2021

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FROM THE BACK PORCH OF THE NEW MAE PUN LUANG TRAINING CENTER

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the herald, who proclaims peace, who brings news of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”

Isaiah 52:7

Greetings from Thailand --

So many changes have come for us in the past few months!

Rob has become very involved in ministry to Lahu church leaders here in Thailand, assisting Joshua Chan, the Director of the Lahu Living Word (LLW) project, who has been ministering to his people for over 20 years. This is the kind of work we sensed God leading us to when we first felt compelled to come to Thailand, so it has been good to see God affirming His calling and opening up doors to come alongside native workers to strengthen the church. Joshua Chan has said numerous times, “I have been praying for a Farang (native English speaker) partner for over 20 years, and the Lord has sent Rob to work with me. He is the answer to our many prayers! God is good!”

For Carol, January brought about a change in position at the school, and she is now the full-time 7th and 8th grade language arts teacher. This too, it seems, is something the Lord has been preparing her for over a period of many years. Although it has been quite challenging, we truly sense God’s hand in bringing this about and giving her many opportunities to help students grow in their English language skills as well as in making connections to Biblical truth in the things they read and analyze.

We are very busy, but very blessed, and very grateful for all of you who have invested in us and the work God has called us to. Thank you so much for your prayers, your encouragement, and your support. We truly could not do this without you.

We are also grateful for the opportunity God has given us to host students in our home from time to time. The boys who were with us for Christmas will be back again to spend next week with us as their dorm is closed for a week for the annual Songkran festival here in Thailand, and they are unable to return home to Korea and Malaysia. We enjoy them so much and are looking forward to this time with them again.

Next year, we will be hosting two boys in our home for the school year, Lord willing. Lukas is from the Netherlands and we know his parents quite well as they have been in our small group for the past year. They are hoping to return to their ministry in China if possible, or return to the Netherlands for a time to renew relationships with family and supporters. We also plan to host another 9th grade boy, Joshua, whose parents are church planters in India. We have enough room for two students and pray things will work out well as we integrate these two 9th grade boys into our home for the year.

The arrangement helps us financially and is a great blessing to families serving in challenging areas who do not have the resources to provide a good education and Christian community for their children. Please pray that Lukas and Joshua will feel at home with us and we will all connect well.

LLW ministry is helping to equip the Lahu church leaders to shepherd the families of the local church God has entrusted to them. Through the L3C (Lahu Christian Correspondence Course) and the BLT (Biblical Leadership Training) ministry, we are seeking to establish a solid spiritual foundation the church leaders can build upon. We also desire to assist faithful leaders to build a solid financial base to care for their families and be able to meet the needs of others. Below is a list of the projects the LLW Director Joshua Chan has initiated to help many churches and villages:

*** 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](#)

*** LLW Clean Water System Project - Click [CLEAN WATER 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.....

- 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.
 - *Although this has been a stretching and growing experience, Carol has had a sweet time engaging with students and especially loves to encourage and motivate students who may be struggling. Please pray for her as she has 79 students, and there is always something that needs to be done. There are just four more weeks of the school year, so please pray she will have stamina and be able to finish well.*

- 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.
 - *We thank the Lord for great interest from about 11 churches in the Mae Hong Son area of Northern Thailand for a marriage seminar requested by the church leaders. We had 15 Lahu couples and about 10 singles participate in our 2-day interactive, discussion focused seminar based on Paul Tripp’s So What Did You Expect? We have received much positive feedback and plan to do Part 2 of 2 marriage seminars in several weeks, bringing much needed food packs at the same time. **Pray** the Lord continues to work at the heart level and strengthen many marriages to walk closer with Jesus and one another.*
- Insight and understanding to develop an Appendix for the Lahu Christian Correspondence Course (L3C) 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 a life-long journey of following and serving the Messiah Jesus.
 - *Rob continues to work with Joshua Chan on developing this Appendix for the L3C training. We have concluded we need 2 Appendices: One for How to Study the Bible, and a Second for How to Teach the Bible. These are two essential skills the church leaders need to develop and practice for the growth and strengthening of the Lahu churches.*
- 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.
 - *We have provided the funding to start one pig farm for Pastor CaKui in the Mae Taeng area. We are grateful to our friend Khun Damrong for supervising the farm operation and helping insure long-term success. **Please pray** the Lord will send additional resources so we can assist several other church leaders to start small businesses.*
- 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.
 - *James has been diligent with his studies and keeping up with the school projects. He really enjoys school overall and is growing in so many ways.*

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

- The Lord to work at the heart level and strengthen many marriages among the Lahu leaders to walk closer with Jesus and one another.
- The Lord will guide Joshua, Rob and the other BLT teachers as we develop practical resources to help equip the church leaders to handle the word of God with confidence and accuracy.
- The Lord to bless Pastor CaKui and his wife as they lead the church in Mae Taeng and manage their pig farm to meet their financial needs.
- The Lord will send additional resources so we can assist several other church leaders to start small businesses.
- There has been a recent outbreak of Covid in Chiang Mai which is causing many closures again where things were opening back up. Please pray with us for the people of Thailand, and especially subsistence workers, who have already been hurt so much by the economic stand still.
- In a similar vein, please pray for our neighboring country of Myanmar. There are many refugees fleeing the military and crossing the border into Thailand. They will become even more unwelcome in Thailand because of fears that they are spreading the virus. Please pray Thailand would continue to be a place of safety for them, and those seeking to bring them food and other needed supplies will not be kept from crossing provincial borders due to Covid travel restrictions (including Rob and Joshua Chan).

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 circumstance.

*"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Romans 15:13

Until all nations sing His praise,

Rob & Carol Rugloski

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. *Thank you for your interest in the Lord's work in Thailand.******

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.



Anjan Goi loading up truck to deliver some food packs to a Karen village.



Planning praying with Anjan Goi, Eric and Pastor Compi of the Creator Church.



Christmas celebration with Anjan Goi and the Creator Church - Hong Dong.



Hannah and Rob testing out the tent before heading to the high country for a campout.



James & Hannah helping to make food packs for about 120 families in need of food supplies.



On Christmas break made it to some cool waterfalls in the mountains - exhilarating!



Christmas meal at Creator Church with our 2 house guests, Bastien and Jinki.



John & Kris staying in shape in Texas over Christmas break.



Grateful for the many Christmas gifts we received - including some very tasty ones.



Enjoying our warm blankets during the one cool week in Thailand!



We delivered some food packs to Pastor CaKui's church just before Christmas. Many were very grateful for the unexpected gift and chance to spend more time with family.



Pastor CaKui was able to start building his pig farm stalls with a no-interest loan from LLW.



Time to make some more food packs with our co-workers Joshua & Somollay



We were able to deliver another 50 food packs to a needy village north of the city.



Late birthday gifts from brothers and sisters in the states were gratefully accepted.



Hannah at her Cross Country End-of-the-Season Celebration. She is known as one of the fastest girls on the team and a hard worker at practice. She received the "Tough Cookie" award.



A tailgate snack on our way to Mae Hae to visit Anjan Goi's friend who was recovering from motorbike injury.



Anjan Goi and his family going home - Thai style!



We had a princess from Egypt stay with us a few days - quite a lovely lady indeed!



Tasty birthday gifts from the brothers and sisters in the states.



Our Christmas gift to Anjan Joshua - a nice motorbike helmet.



Rob & Anjan Joshua were invited to pray over a house of a family that had turned from Buddhism and are followers of Jesus now! We were praying the Lord would protect the family from the evil spirits that once ruled in the house.



Rob removed the old god shelf and pounded over the nails, now ready for burning.



Anjan Goi and his family going home - Thai style!



Rob had his first guitar student - Brother Awsaw's wife



The church gathered in Brother Jeron's new house to sing praises to God for rescuing his family from the devil and giving them great hope.



Invited to a birthday celebration in Wat Na Luang to give a birthday blessing to the young boy.



Jaron and his family (the couple in front on righthand side of pic) celebrate with friends and church family as they dedicate their new home to the Lord and for His Kingdom work. We will be staying at his home when we return to Mae Sang Naam



Lunch feast after celebrating Jaron's deliverance from the evil spirits and his dedication to Jesus as His King and Master.



Watana and Rob staying warm one morning in Wat Na Luang.