### THAILAND TEAM UPDATE – September 2021 \*\*\* Feel free to share with friends \*\*\*



ONE OF OUR FAVORITE CAMPSITES NEAR DOI INTHANON, THE HIGHEST PEAK IN THAILAND

The LORD will be our help, and His faithfulness will support us. Even when anxious thoughts multiply within us, He surprises us with His comforts that delight our soul. Even when there are many who join themselves together against the life of the righteous and condemn the innocent to death, the LORD is still a refuge. He will bring back their injustice upon them, and He will destroy them in their evil. (paraphrase of Ps 94:17-23)

Dear friends and family,

This week is our October break from school, and we enjoyed a beautiful day outside yesterday on one of our favorite hikes near Chiang Mai. The weather was cool, and it was good to put aside all the pressing responsibilities and just be refreshed. We have all been deeply feeling the need for a break. Online school due to Covid restrictions extended from the beginning of school in August, throughout the month of September. We had just three weeks of in-person schooling before the break. Carol is feeling the weight of having 90 students as she now has 90 short stories to grade this week while also planning for classes after the break. Please pray for endurance and wisdom as we move ahead.

We also are in prayer for the United States as we see the rise in violence in our cities and schools and the backlog at our ports and disruption of the supply chain, coming right on the heels of the horrible negligence and resultant devastation in Afghanistan. But we know..."The Lord will be our help, and His faithfulness will support us ..."

#### \*\*\* Please share these opportunities with other mission-minded friends\*\*\*

LLW ministry continues to equip the Lahu church leaders to shepherd the local churches. Through the L3C (Lahu Christian Correspondence Course) and the BLT (Biblical Leadership Training) ministry, we are seeking to establish a solid spiritual foundation for the church leaders that they 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 Pig Farm Project - Click PASTOR FARM PROJECT

\*\*\* LLW Truck Replacement Project - Click TRUCK PROJECT

\*\*\* LLW Clean Water System Project - Click CLEAN WATER PROJECT

\*\*\* LLW Marriage & Family Seminars - Click MARRIAGE & FAMILY SEMINAR

\*\*\* 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 encourage these faithful servants in Thailand.



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's 96 year-old mother, Betty Duncan, as she is dealing with a lot of back pain and has had to move to an
  assisted living facility. Please pray for guidance for Carol as she considers a trip back to be with her. Travel is very
  complicated due to covid, and quarantine on this end would probably be necessary, so there are a lot of factors
  to consider. Pray the Lord will make a way....
  - Still praying about the possibility of an extended trip from December until the summer when the rest of the family would join Carol in the States. There would be many details to work out, but we are considering this. Thanks for praying with us...

- PRAISE for a friend whom Carol has found to help her! Nicole will be the case manager for special needs
  students in middle school next year and is an experienced teacher. She came to mind as a possible resource
  when Carol was praying for help, and after contacting her, Carol found that she was more than eager to help!
  She has been a sounding board as well as an advisor for Carol in planning and has promised to help her with any
  technology needs she will have. A direct answer to prayer!
  - Due to greater needs in elementary at this time, Nicole has been reassigned and will no longer be available to help Carol. We are praying that someone else would become available to step in and help as it is really too much for one person to do alone. Lord, help!
- Students and teachers who will begin the year with two weeks of online instruction due to a decision by the government to ban in-person instruction because of a spike in covid cases. This will be especially disappointing and challenging for new students and for those transitioning from elementary to secondary this year... like Hannah!
  - Although the online instruction continued through all of September, it was really quite manageable, and many of the students (and teachers) found it difficult to return to school! Nevertheless, it has been a blessing to be on campus again, and we are hoping and praying there will be no Covid cases which would necessitate the school having to go online again.
- Khun Goi, seminary student and pastor of Creator Church Hang Dong, as he seeks to care for his family, complete his studies, shepherd the church families and work part-time; the Lord to give him strength and wisdom as he manages his responsibilities and tutors Rob with Thai!
  - We thank the Lord for helping Ajaan Goi recover from some dizziness most likely caused by stress and lack of sleep. Goi's friend Kruu Pon has filled in as my Thai Tutor and we are having a great time; he is teaching me Thai and I am helping him learn a bit of English -- all at the same time!
- The Lord to raise the additional \$1,000 needed to start the Lahu Translation Project for the children's educational materials. <u>Click HERE for more info</u>
  - PRAISE THE LORD! We have received \$5,500 now toward this project! We will be able to complete the first book (2 books to translate for this project) and the first printing with these funds. Continue to pray for the remaining \$4,500 to complete book 2, The Way to Joy.

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

- The Lord will provide funding for Ajaan Goi's education expenses and help assist meet his family's financial needs. Goi has about 1.5 years left for his seminary program, AND is expecting #3 child! So he will need some extra support over this next year in order to finish well. Click HERE if you would like to help.
- The Lord to give us the opportunity to complete the Biblical Leadership Training (BLT) at the Mae Pun Luang (MPL) location in November. This would complete the 3-year leadership training for about 15-20 pastors and church leaders. We would all like to bring it to completion and move forward from there.
- The Lord to guide Ajaan Joshua and his LLW team to know how to best serve the many churches in Myanmar that have started the BLT program, however, they are now unable to complete due to the government and Covid19 restrictions. Joshua is planning to make the training available online and is working through the logistics.
- Our full house, which includes two young boarders. Please pray we would be able to set clear and reasonable expectations that would be acceptable to all.

• Please pray for Carol as she seeks to manage her classes well. She is seeking to implement methods that will enable her to get more done during her hours at school, so she will have less to do in the evenings and weekends. In other words, so she can teach her classes *and* still have a life!

# 2 Indeed, God is my salvation; I will trust him and not be afraid, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation." 3 You will joyfully draw water from the springs of salvation..."

Isaiah 12:2-3

God Himself is our salvation, wherever we may live here on earth. The Lord's nearness is our good and it is He who gives us strength for each day and fills our hearts with songs, joyful songs of praise for His abiding presence with us through the Holy Spirit. And it is our prayer and desire that many leaders in the Thai and Lahu churches would experience the Holy Spirit's work in their life that they could say the Lord is my salvation, He is my strength, He is my song, and when I turn to Him, I am satisfied with joy – because of what Jesus did for me!

Thank you for partnering with us to advance the Kingdom of God in this part of the world, as we partner with the pastors and leaders of many churches in northern Thailand to encourage them to shepherd the flock of God entrusted to them.

Until all nations sing His praise,

Rob & Carol Rugloski James & Hannah Serving with Lahu Living Word

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\*\*\* For those of you who would like to join our ministry team and help us financially, *please* visit our website <u>HERE</u>. Click the DONATE button and complete the information. *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.



Cakui and Leah taking care of the first piglets born at their farm



Cakui and Leah tying off the umbilical cords of the little piglets



Many families were grateful for the food



We visited with Pastor Pramot in Pha Phung



Pig for pork sniffing the visitors



Always a delight to see the children and visit with them



Ajaan Goi and I were able to bring 60 food packs to the families in the village of Pha Phung



Ajaan Joshua and Rob visited Doi Mot where Evangelist Andrew and NaLeh serve, sharing the gospel and food



Ajaan Joshua and Rob passed out the food packs to about 70 families in Doi Mot



The families que up waiting for the food packs to bring home



Random pic - how to travel on a scooter with your dog!!



Carol's roses in full bloom incredible!



James at Bangkok Hospital in Chiang Mai getting some stitches on his fingure from random bike accident



My good friend Ajaan Goi with my favorite shirt on



Some awesome views near the village of Pha Phung, with Pastor Pramot and Ajaan Goi



Hannah with her friend Maya waiting to do a workout at the steps of Doi Kam, a nearby temple overlooking Chiang Mai



CaKui preparing some pig slop for the pigs - yummy!!



Piglets growing up, about 3 months old and they all eat like pigs!



Rob and Ajaan Joshua getting around to the Lahu villages of northern Thailand, Thai style (on motorbikes)



Ajaan Joshua and Rob heading home after visiting Cakui at his pig farm



Ajaan Joshua and Rob delivered a truck load of food to an orphanage in Baan Mae Na, Amphoe Chiang Dao



Often the children will prepare a song to sing to us along with a dance routine, each age group giving us a performance



Hannah all prepared for another day of online learning. About the first 4 weeks of school were online, now we are in classrooms



Some nearby fields that provide food for the orphanage



Hannah did some horse riding this summer and felt like she was in TX ... almost



Rob teaching at Ajaan Goi's church with his sister Prang translating into Thai