THAILAND TEAM UPDATE – December 2021 *** Please share with friends ***



THE LITTLE VILLAGE BAAN DOI PUI NESTLED NEAR THE TOP OF DOI SUTHEP NATIONAL FOREST

¹For this reason, we must pay attention all the more to what we have heard, so that we will not drift away. ² For if the message spoken through angels was legally binding and every transgression and disobedience received a just punishment, ³ how will we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? Hebrews 2:1-3

Dear Partners in the Gospel -

What an amazing, strange, unpredictable, stressful, wonderful year this has been! I cannot begin to describe or even understand the range of emotions we have experienced this year. Most of this first semester of school for Carol and the kids has been online. This brought for Carol many lessons learned (still learning) in using technology and planning weekly, engaging assignments that would take no more than 2 ½ hours for her middle school students to complete. (Yes, I did them myself and then added some time to gauge how long it would take for my students to complete.) James and Hannah experienced the struggle of being disciplined (or not) to complete assignments on their own that were not always well suited to online learning. We all missed the personal interactions with students, and friends, while at the same time, enjoying a more leisurely schedule at home.

Rob continues to have unique opportunities to build relationships. For the past few months, Rob has had a mutually beneficial relationship with a Karen man. Khun Pon is tutoring Rob in Thai while Rob teaches him some English at the same time. He loves coming to our home, and it's delightful to hear his laughter ring through the house as he finds something about us (mainly Rob) or American culture that strikes him funny. He has taken James fishing, Hannah and Rob mushroom hunting, and sometimes comes over to jog with Rob or play sapak tagra. He is a sweet Christian man with a wife and three children whom he is struggling to support. We are so blessed to have him in our lives.

We continue to watch helplessly from afar, the erosion of American society. As police are stripped of the ability to protect our cities (and especially the people that live in them), as criminals are released back onto the streets, and as our borders surge with people entering unlawfully, we wonder when/if order and the rule of law will return. Not to mention threats from foreign nations who no doubt watch with interest the decay of our defenses.

Into the midst of this darkness, decay, and insecurity, the light and certainty of our Lord Jesus Christ gleams all the brighter. What a glorious time to "call to mind" the promises of God fulfilled in Christ which cause us to "therefore have hope." (Lam. 3:21) Hope for peace and joy and love that minimize the dread all around us; that give us perspective and context and glorious purpose.

So instead of giving up, we seek more closely the will of God for us. Right now. Where we are. In this, we find security and light. And we long for everyone to walk in the light of the Lord. He is real. And we can trust Him. Many blessings to you as you call to mind the birth of Christ, God with us, and all that that means.

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

- *** 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

- 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. <u>CLICK HERE</u> to help Ajaan Goi.
 - We continue to pray the Lord will meet Ajaan Goi's needs and provide for His family as he continues to faithfully serve his community and his church.

- 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.
 - Due to Covid19 travel restrictions, we will have to postpone our last training and graduation ceremony until January 2022.
- 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.
 - We are working with the CCF tech team to use the main website as a host for the forms and resources we will use to continue the training online.
- 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.
 - We have been blessed (and challenged at times) to have Lukas and Joshua share our home this past semester. Clearly communicating expectations has been very important in promoting greater harmony.
- 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!
 - May plan My plan was to work with students in class and grade essays as they were completed, conferencing with each student for a few minutes about their work. Being online, I am now barraged with assignments turned in from 90 students at the end of each week. It was a bit overwhelming at first, but I have found more digitally friendly formats that are more enjoyable for my students and easier for me to grade. Thank you for continued prayers!

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

- PRAY PRAY for Rob as he seeks to complete the Gospel of the Kingdom booklet series to assist the churches in clearly communicating the whole message of the gospel. Also for the Lahu Living Word (LLW) teaching team to complete the training seminars that have been postponed due to Covid19 restrictions.
- PRAY for Carol, James and Hannah as they start in-person school in January. After spending 90% of the first semester online, everyone is ready to be back on campus, but there will be many government Covid requirements to meet as well as limitations on sports, social events, etc. Some students will still be working online off and on for various reasons, and Carol will need to adapt her teaching methods to accommodate them.
- PRAY that John would be confident of God's guidance as he seeks the Lord for direction in the months ahead, with many opportunities. He currently is serving as a church intern in New Braunfels, TX and working full-time as a mobile truck/equipment repairman and loving it!
- PRAY for our other adult children in the US (Josh, Daniel, Liz and her family, Kris, & Anna) that God's grace would continue to be a growing reality in their lives, and His peace would rule in their hearts in every situation this next year.
- PRAY that God's grace and peace would guard our hearts in Christ as we daily cast our cares on Jesus because He cares for us.

We give thanks to the Lord for your partnership with us to advance the Kingdom of God in this part of the world. We continue to partner with the leaders of many churches in northern Thailand to encourage them to proclaim the whole gospel *so that* the grace and peace of Christ would overflow to their people and Jesus would be praised all the more.

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.



This is typical "Hill Tribe" country at sunrise - corn harvest is coming soon.



Rob giving a word of encouragement at the funeral of Cahkui's sister-in-law.



Rob and Billy at the funeral with local neighborhood officials



Taking a ride up the mountain with my lovely wife - perfect weather in Chiang Mai Page 5 of 10



Enjoying my language studies with my Thai tutor Kruu Pon



This is the new training center being built near Mae Ai, next to Myanmar. Ajaan Mawsom is a graduate of BLT wants to host the 2-week training for the church leaders nearby.



Carol and Hannah cooling off in the clouds



James with his soccer teammates at a tournament in Chiang Rai



Mom and Dad join in the fun at the skating rink



Birthday celebration at the skating rink



We finally made it to the Bang MaPha area to complete the Marriage Seminar.



The church leaders ate together and discussed future plans for ministry.



It's hard to tell in this pic, however, it is a full down pour of rain with sunshine.



Three of the couples wanted to do a Christian wedding since they were married as Buddhists.



Different groups of friends sang songs to the three couples to celebrate.

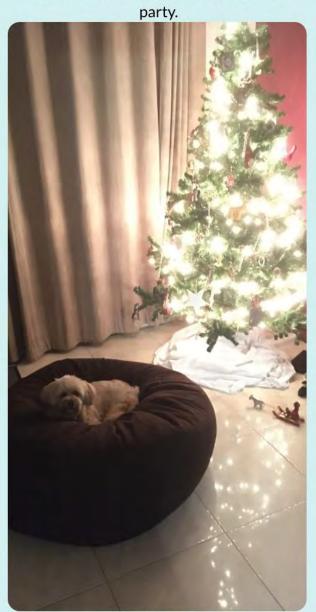


In the early morning overlooking the Saw Baa Church, I took a pic of the lush valley.

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James and the gang heading to a class



Latte found the best spot to enjoy the Christmas tree.



Hannah with her favourite corn snake, Cornflake, enjoying a book together.



Hannah is pet sitting Latte for about 3 months - and loving it.



We were able to bring about 30 foodpacks for families at the Grace Lamphun church.



Ajaan Joshua and I loading the truck with food for Grace Lamphun church.





Rob taught from John 6 that Jesus is the bread We brought 25 foodpacks to the Lahu Church #9 in of life, as Samollay translated into Burmese. Baan Nong Kiao, encouraging Supoj and his father.



Ajaan Joshua took a trip to Mae Sai to A help correct many Burmese Bible lessons Page 9 of 10



Ajaan Goi and Rob enjoying a coffee break together.



Loading up another food pantry delivery for church and orphanage in Doi Saket.



Had lunch with Pastor SomChai and went home with a bunch of my favourite bananas.



One of the babies at the orphanage with a home parent.



Setting up food pantry for Baan Oon Nai that Pastor SomChai will pass out.



We got some extra pics after church.



This semester we had 2 students stay with us as their parents are out of country, Joshua and Lukas. Page 10 of 10