

## THAILAND TEAM UPDATE – July 2021

\*\*\* Feel free to share with friends \*\*\*



*VIEW FROM OVERLOOK SOUTH OF HOT, JUST ABOVE BAAN PHA PHUENG WHERE WE VISITED WITH PASTOR PRAMOT*

*“My life is down in the dust; give me life through your word.  
I am weary from grief; strengthen me through your word.  
I will never forget your word, for you have given me life through your word.  
Psalm 119:25, 28, 93*

Dear friends and family,

We are so grateful for the slower paced, refreshing summer months we have had! It has been a great time for family fun, extended time with the Lord, home projects, and a bit of planning for next year as well. As we look toward the upcoming school year, we are excited and ready for new learning experiences and renewed relationships. Due to the covid situation here, our first two weeks will be online, and, although it is far from an ideal way to begin the year, we are hopeful that we will be able to return to in-person instruction in September.

Carol’s 96-year-old mother has transitioned from an independent living apartment to an assisted living facility. After a brief stint in the hospital due to a cut in her arm that became badly infected, she has determined that she no longer wants to live alone. Our daughter and a good friend have been taking turns staying with her around the clock, and we have found a good long-term solution in the assisted living facility. She is blessed to have a good friend there that she is eager to be living near once again. Please pray for her pain to be manageable, and for the possibility of Carol taking a trip back to see her in the next few months.

### *BAPTISM CELEBRATION AT THE RIVER – LAHU STYLE!*

Cahkui and his wife Leah (BLT graduates) have planted a church in Mae Taeng area and have been visiting other nearby villages sharing the gospel. They recently visited Pha Daeng village and were able to encourage several Lahu Christian families that had been isolated for some time. After several months of visits and teaching, one family had three of their children come to faith and wanted to be baptized in the nearby river. Rob and Carol joined Joshua Chan and his wife Samollay along with another teacher Jeff to join in the celebration in the first week in May. We had a glorious time and enjoyed some authentic jungle fixins cooked over an open fire in bamboo containers (see more pics in the full report). We give thanks to God for Cahkui and Leah’s faithfulness to care, teach, and shepherd hungry souls in the rural villages of northern Thailand.



*In the fast-flowing, muddy Mae Taeng River, Joshua baptizes one of the Three young people professing faith in Jesus.*

*“LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE IN SUCH A WAY THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD”*

Rob continues to partner with Joshua Chan, the Director of the Lahu Living Word (LLW) project, and Khun Goi, Seminary student and pastor of Creator Church, Hand Dong to show the rural villages the love of Christ is word and deed. Due to the Covid19 restrictions on travel and business, many families living in the rural villages have not been able to work and have very little food reserves.

Partnering with Bread for Life program (through Family Connection Foundation) we have provided 100's of food packs to dozens of villages over the last few months. We provide the food and cooking supplies on behalf of the local church pastor, who then distributes the foodpacks to those who are most needy. Sharing God's love and care for these isolated villages has open many doors for the gospel as new relationships are made and love is shown.

#### *MARRIAGE SEMINAR – PART 2*

Joshua Chan and Rob arrived at Pang Mapha Friday evening after making the almost 4 hour drive from Chiang Mai through the 1000+ curves from Mae Taeng to Pai. We enjoyed a birthday party celebration for a 9-year old boy and CaBo's sister-in-law's new house dedication. After a nice meal we made our way to Mai Sang Naam to spend the night at the home of Khun Jaran, the new Christian who we helped to remove the idol shelf from his home earlier this year.

On Saturday morning we waited for everyone to arrive and got a later start than scheduled -- normal hill country protocol! We had 8 couples join us along with 8 singles for part 2 of the marriage seminar. We used Paul Tripp's *So What Did You Expect* discussion guide, modified by Joshua Chan as needed to be useful for the Lahu context. One of the main teaching points we emphasized is the fact that the greatest problem in any marriage is ourselves, and the problems we bring into the new relationship. If each spouse will turn their focus on the real issues each needs to grow through, then there's hope for real harmony, unity and joy in our most important human relationship. The real problems in our marriages are not outside of us, but actually within us. That's where Jesus needs to do the heart work that brings genuine, lasting change.



*The group discussions produced much laughter at the Marriage Seminar*

The participants enjoyed the group discussion times as well as the table discussions. There was much interaction with most of the couples, and much laughter among everyone. Most everyone was engaged, and Joshua did a masterful job of encouraging the couples to apply the practical lessons and producing much laughter in between. We completed sessions 6-10 on Saturday, enjoying lunch and dinner together.

One the last day we had participants share some of the things they learned from the marriage seminar to encourage everyone. Here are some of their responses:

- “We now have a better understanding how we can honor God in our family, forgive each other’s faults and can consider other people’s needs.”
- “We better understand the word of God and are able to instruct ourselves. As a husband and wife, we can be more humble toward one another and listen better.”
- “Before if I had something against my wife, I would not talk to her for a long time. Now, I have learned I must continue to talk to my wife and forgive her.”
- “Now I understand that all my problems begin in my heart, and do not come from circumstances or from other people.”

WOW! We were so encouraged to hear what God had taught them over the last several months and we emphasized their opportunity now to share what they had learned with others.

We also enjoyed a Sunday worship service together and Rob preached on John 13, Jesus our example of servant leadership, who lead with truth and grace - in every situation. After lunch Joshua and Rob made the journey through the mountains back to Chiang Mai, enjoying a time of singing and discussion and fellowship.

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

LLW ministry continues to equip the Lahu church leaders to shepherd the families of 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.....

- The Lord to continue to guide Rob, Ajarn Joshua and the BLT team as they develop the training modules and deliver food supplies to many of the families impacted by the economic shutdown due to Covid19
  - *We continue to make progress on the training modules and are grateful for the teaching team we have to work with. We have had opportunities to deliver food packs about 2 -3 times each month to villages associated with BLT graduates, encouraging hundreds of families with food supplies and prayers.*
- The Lord to direct us in how to assist the OmGoi Churches and seminary and high school. We are considering requests from Pastor Na Rayd for a Pig Farm project and a Marriage Seminar for the community.
  - *Khun Goi and Rob were able to make a visit to the OmGoi church and seminary. A friend of Goi's was able to donate funds so the boarding school could buy 15 piglets to raise for feeding students.*
- Carol as she sets her summer schedule to allow for family time, personal time, and school planning time. She will be teaching Language Arts 7th and 8th grade and would like to have lesson plans for the 1st semester of the 2021-2022 school year completed by the end of the summer.
  - *Although I don't have daily lesson plans completed, I have a great understanding of what needs to be covered and a skeletal plan of standards to be reached and texts and methods to use. I am very excited for the year ahead!*
- Bastien, the 10th grader who will be staying with us this summer, that he would have a good break and we can make him feel at home.
  - *We have so enjoyed having Bastien in our home! He is a very talented musician and is now giving piano lessons to Hannah and James!*

- Lukas and Joshua, both 9th graders who will be staying with us for next year's entire school year, that they would adjust well to their new home, and we would be a welcoming family to them.
  - *Lukas will be joining us the first week in August, and Joshua will be flying in from the States and then completing quarantine and able to join us August 16. Please continue to pray!*
- The Lord to raise the additional \$1,000 needed to start the Lahu Translation Project for the children's educational materials. [Click HERE for more info](#)
  - *We have been in contact with Good Soil Publications as we make final plans to start the translation into Lahu of a Creation to Christ Bible curriculum for 6-12 year olds. We continue to pray for the additional funds needed to start this project.*

PLEASE DRAW NEAR TO THE THRONE OF GRACE ON OUR BEHALF 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....
- 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!
- 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!
- Joshua Chan, Director of the Lahu Living Word (LLW) project, as he recovers from back pain and exhaustion. We continue to wait for villages to open again so we can continue our Biblical Leadership Training (BLT) seminars for the rural church leaders.
- 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!
- The Lord to raise the additional \$1,000 needed to start the Lahu Translation Project for the children's educational materials. [Click HERE for more info](#)

We give thanks often for each of you who have partnered with us, making it possible for us to serve the Lord in Thailand **FOR OVER 3 YEARS NOW!** We pray God's grace to be poured out on you to abide in Jesus, to bear much fruit, for the glory of the Father and the good of His people.

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. ... My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples."*

John 15:5-8

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 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.**



*Baptism in the muddy Mae Taeng River - plenty of water here!*



*The family from Pha Daeng with the 3 oldest children being baptized.*



*After the baptisms, celebrating next to the river cooking over open fire.*



*Cooking the rice inside a piece of freshly-cut bamboo - jungle living!*



*Enjoying the grilled pork and fresh rice - all cooked to perfection - mmmm good!*



*Pastor Cahkui tried his hand at some fishing along the river bank.*



In the middle of May, Khun Goi and I were part of a team that delivered about 50 bags of rice and cooking supplies to a refugee village in Myanmar.



We crossed the Thailand - Myanmar border to deliver the food and visit the village.



This is the girls dorm for about 80 students that live without their parents.



We gathered with the students and gave thanks to God and shared a snack.



The young men helped unload the food supplies from the 2 trucks.





Khun Goi, Todd and Rob loading the food packs to bring to a couple Doi Saket villages.



Delivered about 50 food packs to a Lahu church in Doi Saket.



In May we also visited Pastor Narayd and Omgoi Training center.



Through an evangelist friend of Khun Goi's, we were able to deliver 60 food packs to another village in Doi Saket area.



For Mother's Day, Carol received the "BEST MOM EVER" award.



In June we joined Khun Goi for worship one Sunday at his church and Rob gave message.



After being delayed for months due to Covid19 lockdowns, we finally made it to Huai Tong with 140 food packs.



Rob had the privilege to hand out many of the food packs.



Ajarn Joshua and evangelist Sapoj helped deliver the food packs.



Through an evangelist friend of Khun Goi's, we were able to deliver 60 food packs to another village in Doi Saket area.



When things opened up again, we were able to take day trip to a favorite spot, Doi Pui.



Bamboo in the mountains tends to grow very tall!



After delay for months due to Covid19 lockdowns, we finally made to Mai Sang Naam for Part 2 of Marriage Seminar.



Khun Jaran played some traditional wood pipes for us.



After lunch, Khun Jaran bringing his daughters home for naptime.



Ajarn Joshua guided many group discussions with the couples, providing many opportunities for much laughter.



In the most northwest village of Thailand on the Myanmar border, the local gas station.



And behind the gas cans hung many bundles of fresh garlic - gas & garlic!