

May 2010

Greetings from Thailand! We have been keeping pretty busy in mission work. This year we had the Mission Board members come to Chiangmai. We met everyday from Jan. 22-29, sharing and learning all kinds of stuff. Each family gave an update of the work we're doing in the field. It was a very good meeting. It was so nice to meet all the Mission Board members and to get to know them. We really appreciated their time and encouragement to all of us.



8 students graduated from LBI



2000 to 3000 people attended March 2010 Convention



Commencement at Lisu Bible Institute 2010



Joel preaching & teaching at March 2010 Convention from the book of James

After the Board Members left, our friend Bob Mitchell arrived on the 31st to visit us from Racine Christian Church in Missouri. I was able to take him to different villages. He had the opportunity to preach while I translated for him. I think he really enjoyed his visit to the villages. I know we enjoyed having him with us. He was able to eat everything the villages provided for us. Also, he could sleep like us any place too. I really appreciate him coming and encouraging us and helping us.

Then on March 6th, we took my son Jesse to the airport. He went on to Myanmar and then on up to Myitkyina where my cousins Jonathan and Reuben live and work. He got to visit them and help them as well.

Then on Feb. 8th, I took Ellissa and Andy up to Maesai – a town on the border of Burma and Thailand. This couple is helping us with the Nusu Orthography, comparing the two different dialects. This process is a slow, tedious, difficult job. We worked on it for 2 days but did not complete it. We will need to continue this when they have more time.



Joel getting accupuncture



Dr. Alae gives Joel nutrition intravenously



Joel with Anung women attending the wedding.



Joel with Dr. Alae's family.



March 2010 Convention



The Nujiang River (anung Valley)

In the meantime, I still need to try and finish up translating the Nung Bible. We finished proofing it mid-February. Right away I had to make a tripto the northern tribes. I left Feb. 21. While I was there, I was able to travel to many places and preach and teach in those places as well.

At that same time, I had a lot of stomach problems. One of my friends, Dr. Alai, helped me out. He was able to treat me with acupuncture for 6 days, and also put me on herbal medicine. I sent out a Power Point report 2-3 weeks ago. I hope you all received it and were able to watch it. Please consider helping the one who helped treat me. He is really in need of help at this time. He is a hard working man who treats others without charge. He truly has the heart of humbleness - healing the sick whenever and wherever he can. He is very faithful to the Lord. As much as he can, he witnesses to others along with the medical help. I tell you his wife is from Burma side and used to good living conditions. But now she needs to suffer with her husband for the Lord and for the people those who are in need. When I go on the next trip, I would like to take money and give it to him and

encourage him.

I got better after 6 days of treatment. But I didn't sit still either! Every night I was able to share and preach the Word of God. Each night more and more people came and listened to the Word of God. I had to preach from 8-10 p.m. I enjoyed this time very much getting to meet many different people.

After that, I traveled on to other places, some requiring 3 hours walking and climbing the whole way up until we reached the next village. Praise the Lord, though I had been sick, I was able to keep up with them. I sweated heavily, and I was tired, but I enjoyed it very much! When we got to the village, I rested and ate so I could preach from 8-10 pm. The audience wanted me to continue, to hear more, but I had to tell them I was very tired and needed to sleep.

On March 13th, my cousin Ahkushe got married. I was able to give her away that day because her family lives in Burma. They were not able to come to the wedding, so I was the only one available to walk her down the aisle. I was so happy to help her and get to attend her wedding while I was there. It was a very nice wedding, and over 500 people came. Her husband has finished Bible school and is working as an Evangelist. Now they both are working together. They travel a lot. I have been helping her financially for a few years now, as she is a strong, dedicated, faithful Christian woman. Keep her in your prayers as they start their work together now.

I arrived back in Chiangmai on March 17. The next day I had to buy all kinds of medicines for the villages as one of my friends from New York had already arrived. He comes each year and helps with medical treatments for the villagers. His name is Gil Lozada. I think many of you know him. He came with a nurse, Ana DePuy, and together we traveled to different villages treating the sick and handing out vitamins, etc...this medical treatment trip was from March 21-24. I tell you, Gil and Ana were able to eat all kinds of our food, which made it easy to care for them!

I would encourage any of you to come and visit us!! Would you like to come??? Please do come and see what we are doing and what God is doing in this part of the world. Please come and encourage us. Thailand is a very nice country and each year millions of people from all over the world vacation here. Things are cheap here! So please come!!

We had a Preaching and Teaching convention for the Lahu people March 25-29. During the daytime they had the services and fellowshiping, singing and classes for the youth. Then in the evenings we also had preaching, singing and a time of prayer. Here in Asia, the Christians love to sing and fellowship with each other. They cook rice and vegetables for everyone to have their meals together.

At the end of the Convention, many people came to the Lord. Many of the older people came too and were baptized. God added 34 new people to His Heavenly family that day! We praise God that He is really opening the hearts of so many people here and that they are responding to His call. There are still many who have not yet been baptized as they want to know more about Jesus Christ first.

I was able to get some rest and further treatment for my stomach, and also got put on some medication for it. Now I am a lot better, so I go running again for 45 minutes to 1

[] hours every morning. I cool down, take a shower, have my quiet time, eat breakfast. Then my day begins! I am in the process of redoing the O.T. introduction and outline of each book for the Anung Bible.

Marilyn is still busy with Music ministry. A preacher-evangelist from Burma came to visit. While here, he did some recording of choir music. He needed some help singing the alto parts and some soprano parts, so Marilyn was able to help him. It is very good, and it is also a good tool for reaching out to those who want to know God. Also she is continuing working on the Anung DVD. It is almost finished. As soon as she finished it, I have to take the master copy to the northern tribes. This trip will be just a short trip of about 2 weeks. I will go by boat and over land if possible.

POLITICAL SITUATION I would like to let you know that Thailand's political situation is very bad right now. I think most of you already know that from the news. Right now, many of the streets have been closed and taken over. Fighting has broken out in the business districts of Bangkok. The political stands between the government and the Red Shirt protesters who have been agitating for new elections have now taken a turn for the worst. The confrontations and civil unrest in Bangkok is of increasing concern. What is happening in Bangkok will spread to the entire nation now that they have started a shooting war. Please lift this situation up in prayer.

I want to say that you are part of this ministry through your faithful financial support, prayer and encouragement. Without your support, the work cannot go on, so we really, really appreciate your support in every way throughout these years. We also continually pray for you. We know that God will reward you in Heaven and also while you are on earth, His blessings will be poured out upon you.

If you have any questions concerning our work, the political situation, etc., please write to us at jaknung@hotmail.com or phylinx@gmail.com. May God bless you and keep you, may he grant you prosperity and good health. May His mercy be upon us all!

Your co-workers in Christ,
Joel and Marilyn Khopang