

LAMPHUN THAILAND

THE BALLOU FAMILY



Dear Friends,

AREN'T WE ALL TIRED OF TALKING ABOUT COVID RESTRICTIONS AND RESPONSES?

Instead, I'd like to give you a few highlights of what we have been doing in spite of the apparent obstacles presented by Thailand's third and most serious wave of the virus so far. In this time of outbreaks, variants, and lockdown, we have been:

Discipling - A church barely 5 years old has one clear priority in the consideration of all needs. The majority of believers in this church plant have trusted in Christ quite recently, after reaching adulthood in a religious system that offers almost no knowledge of the truth

of this world and the God who made it. It is essential for us to help these adults with already busy schedules find time and means to deepen their knowledge of God's word and re-form their world views to align with scripture.

Renovating - At the beginning of the year, we put out a brief video highlighting our vision for ministry over the coming years, and how we needed to renovate and furnish our ministry center for those needs. Your giving response honestly blew us away! We have been able to complete a series of beautiful renovations providing our church with amazing spaces for fellowship, outreach, bible study, and growing influence in our community.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Salvation of Tam, Wong, Zach & Opal

Wisdom in ongoing responses to covid restrictions

Bible Institute development, including counseling courses

Praying - I have a second story view from a window that overlooks the back of the property here. It's been my favorite place to stand and ask God to bless us in reaching and discipling people. As I pray through lists of our members and unsaved friends, this time invariably leads to reaching out by text to several people, seeking to further develop relationships even in these "lockdown" days.

Resting - We took a full stop vacation around the end of June. Having just received our visa for another year in Thailand (Praise the Lord!), we were able to get away and find high quality family time, as well as catch up with dear friends in Central Thailand. The timing proved to be perfect,



Much of the past season of life for us has been a little bit like when you get to the top of the stairs holding something, and think there is still one more stair left. That feeling of tripping over air and adjusting is the best way I could describe what life has been like for us so far throughout this year. At present the church is meeting in multiple locations with gatherings of 10 or less to comply with local regulations. In spite of the obstacles, responses have been overwhelmingly positive, and the church has stayed fully engaged.

as we made it back home just before the most recent rash of outbreaks. We were greatly refreshed and re-energized to share Christ and serve his church.

Baptizing - This past Sunday we saw four people follow the Lord in baptism. Especially encouraging was the baptism of Sai, a lady who grew up in a fishing village in the south. The reason her conversion was so special is the fact that she was reached by her neighbor Seeng, a faithful church member, who had been brought to Christ by Namrin, one of our church's founding members. Seeing the church begin to organically proclaim the gospel to multiply in their own communities is beyond exciting!

In addition, we have gone through a season where 2 young men training for ministry in our church made some very poor decisions and had to step down from holding responsibility in the church. It would be difficult to put into words how much of a weight this has been on me. I can probably think of a thousand ways I wish I had done a better job of leading them, and yet at the end of the day I have to accept that they made their own decisions. Would you pray with us for their repentance and restoration?

In Christ,
The Ballou Family

Family life is beyond beautiful just now. Our children are 10, 8, 6, and 2. Their hearts are so beautifully connected to ours, and to Christ's as well. Academically they are all doing well, each with certain areas of special progress, as well as points that require extra effort. Alisa and I are careful to take time away every single week to maintain a healthy marriage. In times of ministry ups and downs, family has certainly been a steady source of joy and refreshment.