

LAMPHUN, THAILAND

BALLOU FAMILY

April 2022



Dear Friends,

God has been teaching us the blessings of steady ministry over the long term. In the past month, we have heard from two young people whose journey to Christ began in our living room/ministry center shortly after moving to Lamphun. After finishing high school and moving away, they got connected with Christians near them. We were so thankful to hear of their decisions to follow Christ in their local churches. We have seen people come to Christ after another faithful Christian planted seeds of the gospel in their hearts, but this is the first time to hear of someone trusting Christ after moving away. It was so encouraging!

Peter, another young man who I only met recently, chose to follow Jesus through a study in the book of Proverbs. Discouraged about a number of problems and setbacks in his personal and professional life, he contacted me at the recommendation of a friend. Beginning with biblical answers to the questions he was facing, he quickly came to see his need to know the Author of wisdom as personal Savior. His bright enthusiasm has been truly refreshing! I appreciate your prayers for his spiritual growth.

Gratefully,
The Ballou Family

PRAYER REQUESTS

Upcoming visit to the US

We are praying for safety and smooth travel this June-July.

Salvation of lost friends

Tam, Peter, Zach & Opal, Wong & Sai, Yoke, Brasan & Nute, and others.

Thai men in ministry

Many of our friends in ministry have faced a challenging season.





After nine years here in Thailand, I am often encouraged to see the faithfulness of Thai men we have known since we first arrived. These two faithful pastors hosted a revival meeting in the village where they both grew up. Visiting brought back great memories of other trips we have made to encourage this church in a remote village of the Issan region of Thailand. Another link in our email will take you to see the original videos from 2011 and 2013.



A LIGHT IN DARKNESS

Last month I traversed a strange world of mixed feelings as I found myself with a unique opportunity...

I teach on a volunteer basis for the English department of our local university, however this is a specifically Buddhist institution. Over half of my students attend class in the orange to dark brown garb of the monk-hood. While this voluntary teaching arrangement may seem odd, I have clear motivations. Three of my dear Christian friends who currently serve in full-time Christian ministry come from backgrounds with multiple years spent as Buddhist monks. With knowledge of the emptiness of their experience, and of the questions for which they found no answers, I am seeking to build friendships with these apparently devoted religious young men.

So, the opportunity which I took advantage of was an invitation to attend the university's 8th annual conference on "Buddhism and New Global Trends", an event hosted to award academic research from all over Thailand within the category of modern practice of Buddhism. The warm personal greetings of my students sprinkled throughout the event contrasted sharply with the frigid spiritual darkness of the whole setting. Chills ran down my spine as the majority of attendees participated in the opening chanted recitations. As a foreign delegate, I was seated 2 rows behind our provincial governor, and behind the highest ranking monks in attendance, with hundreds of robed voices chiming in from behind me.

The ceremony of it all was amazing to behold. Every greeting and every bow was specifically calculated to properly reflect the perceived status of both parties involved. Junior staff members in full suits traversed the stage on their knees or bent over in a full bow, never daring to raise their heads above the level of the seated, highest-ranking monk who handed out the awards. Very few experiences in life have ever been so motivating in my call to share the the glory of our Savior than this spectacle of humans honoring one another. I stayed through the entire morning for the opportunity to meet and take a photo with our local governor. We pray God will allow us to people to come to Christ from all walks of life in this community!

