

# January 2021 Prayer Letter

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Dear Friends,

The year 2020 was in many ways a very fruitful year for ministry here in Lamphun, Thailand. We experienced some loss and disappointment, with Alisa's grandfather passing away in a time we were already processing the cancellation of our brief furlough due to the global pandemic. Alisa's parents had also been forced to cancel their plans to visit, and many other planned events were scratched from the calendar. I'm sure that many of you share in some sense of isolation, as the world has gone through such turmoil, and social distancing has greatly reduced the amount of quality time we had with friends and family. Yet we are confident that God was working out his plan for our lives and ministry, as we saw our church plant take important steps of growth.

This was a year we got to see glorious conversions, including Pey, whose movie-script story we shared in our July prayer letter. The providence that led him from Burma to Lamphun through militia conscription, the death sentence for desertion, and escape from his guard is nothing short of breath-taking. I'm confident God has an incredible plan for the life of this young man with a great spirit and incredible testimony. Khobfah (Horizon), another high school senior who has been reached through Alisa's English class is facing tremendous pressure from her parents to renounce anything of Jesus. Their positions in mid-level government work require them to adhere strictly to Buddhism, and any appearance of disloyalty in these turbulent political times would reflect poorly in their circles. At the same time that we have been witnessing the deep rootedness of believers who have recently come to Christ, the level of opposition to those who have chosen to follow Christ shows with disturbing clarity.

Our family is entering this new year with new focus and great hope for the ministry God has privileged us to serve in here in Lamphun. Opportunities for ministry at this point range from a constant emphasis on reaching out to those who have never heard the gospel clearly, to establishing new believers in their faith, to seeing believers deepen in their discipleship and step into ministry, and now training young men with clear goals of serving Christ full-time. In the coming days, we will be sharing a few specific ways that we see opportunities opening up for ministry with compounding fruitfulness! As always, we are so grateful for your faithful intercession on our behalf and for your sacrificial financial support.

In Christ,

The Ballou Family

# A Ministry Moment



A family we have been friends with for a long time asked us to join them a group of friends from here in Lamphun to go with them on a trip to his home village. It was an incredible gift that God gave us to spend three days with this group of people from our city.

None of these people have ever been to a church before and most have never clearly heard the gospel at all. Although we live here, it isn't often that we get to dive so deeply into the lives of those who live all around us, so this was a gift.



Sending Church: [www.lancasterbaptist.org](http://www.lancasterbaptist.org)

Mission Board: [www.bimi.org](http://www.bimi.org)

Family website: [www.lightforthailand.com](http://www.lightforthailand.com)