

July 2023

BALLOU FAMILY

SERVING IN LAMPHUN, THAILAND



SUMMER MINISTRY

Here in Thailand, we are rapidly passing the months of summer ministry. A few days away as a family in the south of Thailand provided great opportunities for us to reflect on God's leading so far in this journey of missions.

Principally, we thank God for fruit in each year of ministry, and for the apparent increase in fruitfulness as we see believers progress from needing discipleship to teaching others.

Our focus in this season of ministry for the next several years is to equip Thai believers to be leaders in the church as they learn to reach and disciple new believers for themselves. Please pray that God will give us wisdom to teach and train, and that God's Spirit enables these believers to grow deep and strong for themselves, with a passion to reach others out of their personal walks with God.

In the midst of seeing growth and establishment of many believers, we have gone through a season of intense counseling with some struggling believers, and even watched a lady who had previously turned from idols return her Bibles and study materials, saying she is done with being a Christian.

The reality of struggle or disappointment has made us all the more grateful for every miracle we have witnessed since starting a church in our living room in 2015. We also feel even more deeply the impact of your faithful prayer on our behalf as we are in the trenches of spiritual warfare, just as many of you are!

We have some specific prayers that we'd be honored for you to pray about on the following page. Thank you for the honor of your labor of prayer!

With Love,
The Ballou Family

People to pray for:

-Teens in our church: It is especially challenging for kids who are growing up in Thai schools to face both opposition and temptation where they are. It can be hard to honor their Christian parents' higher standards for tech usage and general safety when their friends are living so drastically different lifestyles. Please pray for the Christian teens to continue to grow strong in their love and obedience toward God!

-New Believers Ton and Mot: Please pray for this couple who have a passion to follow Jesus but are trying to figure out how to become part of a church family since their restaurant business makes the most money on Sundays. We are asking God to strengthen their hearts to make steps of faith to follow Him!



Sometimes a picture from past years is a great encouragement as we see people faithful to serve. Luka, on the far left, is preparing to plant a church, and Trent is currently serving with his wife here in Lamphun. Through various seasons in ministry, we pray God will keep us steady so that we can have a part in the development of many leaders here in Thailand.

I teach and advise weekly in the English department at a Buddhist college in our city. Pray with me for this wide open door to result in fruitful witness. Most of these young men are in the orange robes for economic or educational reason, rather than a firm conviction. May God work in hearts with His truth!

