




THE BALLOU FAMILY

Lamphun, Thailand

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Dear Friends


The months of April and May were packed with such joyful ministry. Our focus in ministry over the next several years is to develop leadership among Thai believers in the local church, and we've been rejoicing to see that happen in several ways.


- * A young couple has decided to systematically visit each member in the church and has also made a point of remembering each person's birthday to be sure they feel seen, loved, and part of our church community.
- * We cook meals after each Sunday morning service, and while Alisa cooked each of those meals for all of the first years of our church, several women have stepped in and become part of that rotation. Each week after our meal, kids, men, and women alike jump in to clean afterwards - washing dishes, sweeping and mopping floors, and packing away leftovers for whoever needs them that week. It is a joy to watch everyone serving together.
- * Without being asked to, Wie bakes muffins each week for the whole church.
- * After the services on Sunday, a large group of adults gather to discuss the message as well as other questions about the Bible that they've uncovered during the week. Our assistant pastor, Toey, is a very gifted teacher, and leads these unscheduled times of Bible study. Often, they'll go out together after studying to drink coffee at one of the very numerous shops in our city. First time visitors will get invited to these outings, helping them feel immediately at home with our church.

While we schedule an array of activities in our church calendar, it is delightful to watch the Holy Spirit moving in all of these people's hearts, unprompted, doing their best to follow His leadership in their lives. Thank you for your prayers that God would do His mighty work through our church and in all of our hearts and lives.


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Highlights of 2024 Second Quarter:

- * Songkran celebration - This is such a time of delight for our church, participating in our country-wide annual water fight. It's always a great day for forging deeper relationships together as a group while getting to meet many new people from our city.
- * Men's accountability night - We asked in a speaker who specializes on this topic and had the best group of men that we've ever had. Barbecue, song, truth spoken, and time for prayer.
- * Women's gathering - The ladies reserved a large table at our local outdoor grill and hosted the women of our church to come fellowship and eat together. This year, we finished a study through the books of the New Testament, and are now studying the Sermon on the Mount together.
- * Several of the kids in our church were able to go ice skating with our church for the first time in their lives! It was so fun to watch them enjoy themselves.

Prayer requests:

- Please pray that believers new and old at our church would passionately seek God for themselves.
- Pray for leaders to rise up as faithful students of the Word, deeply rooted in truth.
- Pray for Muay, a brand new believer who has to work on Sundays. Pray that she will be able to see God provide a way for her to join church and that she'd seek God on her own.
- Pray for our children's and teen programs to see God doing a deep work in hearts.
- Pray for our church to learn the ways of sacrificial and generous giving as we begin to save money to purchase land.

The last two weeks our family has been in the states, and we've been reminded how blessed we are to have such incredible supporters. So many church people have known our names, our kids names, and have so obviously been lifting us up in prayer. We are so grateful for this and firmly believe that it is through the prayer of the body of Christ that His hand moves on our behalf.

In Christ,

Jay and Alisa Ballou