

Dear Friends,

Hello from Thailand! Thank you for taking the time to read this letter specifically to know how to pray better. What an honor for us! I wanted to share a sort of day in the life of ministry here so today after church I sat down to write what we experienced through the day.

Saturday night and Sunday early morning the weight of resistance I was experiencing in my spirit was heavy, as it is most days before heading into a weekend of ministry. It always feels like armoring up to fight a battle. Leaning into Christ as I prepared to preach “Greater Love hath no man,” spiritual songs lifted my heart, ministering to the depths of my soul.

Sunday morning s visitor walks in to church. This Thai lady in her mid-20s has seen our church sign and come to see what we’re about. After introducing myself, I introduce her to two of our church ladies who are making lunch in the kitchen. They include her, and she is instantly feeling at home, chopping green beans and telling them about herself. So proud of our church!

One of our four children needs me to stop and help their attitude. I feel so proud of my kids, growing up serving Christ and His church.

The song service is starting and it’s not going perfectly. I am eager to hand over the leading of music to someone with the ability to lead, a testimony worth following, and my heart for music that will glorify Christ and prepare hearts. One day.

We have 6 guests today: three are friends of a church member, two are from Alisa’s English class, and one is the lady that came because of the church sign. Praying they will understand and feel comfortable.

My text of my sermon today is meaty. I feel myself grinding out the vocabulary

and sentence structure, maybe more than normal. After five years of preaching weekly in Thai, it does get easier, but language studies still must continue to be a priority.

The service ends with a testimony of a young man who was baptized 1 year ago. He tells how God is changing him from the inside out, and tells how thankful he is that confusion and superstition no longer control his life.

T____ is a successful young businessman who has attended four weeks in a row.

I sit at lunch with him and he shows signs of really understanding the gospel of Jesus. This young professional was brought by his wife, who was invited by her mother, who was invited by her sister, a faithful lady in our church who lives in our neighborhood.. I'm so thankful for this faithful lady and her testimony! Now T____'s beautiful family with two baby boys is starting to take regular steps toward Christ! In two weeks, his wife will share her testimony of salvation and baptism with our church. We are praying her husband follows Christ soon.

Alisa sits with a middle-aged Thai lady she led to Christ last month. How did she first come to church? Her Buddhist friend saw that she was depressed and recommended that she visit church because her son has been going for a year, and his life is dramatically changed! The conversation concludes with the decision to schedule baptism for next week.

I try to schedule weekly Bible studies with N____, a man who has been coming to our church for three years but has not opened his heart to the Lord. It's a difficult conversation where he tells me he's not interested and again I have to leave him in God's hands.

It's time to leave the church, and three Thai men are still sitting around and fellowshiping together. I was privileged to lead all three to Christ out of Buddhism and baptize them in 2017, 2018, and 2019, respectively. It's all so worth it!

Knowing you read this letter so you can pray with us, standing shoulder to shoulder as we lift high the light of Christ, we ask that God will work in these ways in the coming month:

1. Please pray for fresh moving of the Holy Spirit in me as I lead, in our family

as we seek Him and endeavor to lift Him high, in the Christians who are learning what it means to grow strong in knowing Christ and loving Him and others well.

2. Please pray that those who are exposed to the gospel will see with clarity who Jesus is and worship Him as their Creator, God, and Savior.

3. Please pray that we will have wisdom to lead and serve well here in Thailand! Pray that we will be focused, that we'll be strengthened and growing in our calling and vision for what God wants to accomplish.

What an honor to serve alongside you!

In Christ,
the Ballous



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