

Spring 2024

Thai Times w/ Amy Cottle



Live to be forgotten so that Christ might be remembered. D.E. Hoste

Dear friends and family,

The hot season has arrived in Thailand. It is a sticky 105 today as I write this. I hope your Spring season is more comfortable for you. Since it is now Thai summer, it is also the end of the university school year and student ministry has slowed down quite a bit. Most students have returned to their home towns.

As I am thinking of the change in seasons and the change in ministry activities, the verse from Ecclesiastes keeps going through my mind, **"For everything there is a season..."** (Eccl. 3:1). Here is what the seasons of my life are looking like this year:

A time to embrace

Before I begin writing prayer letters, I look through my pictures and see if a story develops. I have hundreds of pictures with students but they don't always tell a story. I realized as I was scrolling through my pictures that I am always happiest when I am with people, making connections. I cherish the moments when I have just been talking with people (students, missionaries, professors), telling a Bible story, or leading a small group. This year, I have really embraced these times and hold these memories close to my heart. God is good!



A time to embrace

Top L: Talking w/ Pack and Jo

Top R: Leading small groups

Bottom L: Cultural activities

Bottom R: Dinner with missionary friends

complete a discipleship book on the basics of the Christian faith. Please pray for Pack to see the need to continue to read his Bible every day and get connected to a group of believers when he starts working. With so few Christians in Thailand, new believers have a hard time finding community to encourage them in their faith!

A time to build up

In February, we moved to a new student center. It is twice the size of the old center and has 4 bedrooms which can accommodate our Thai co-workers, Wit and Muey, as well as other short-termers who come to help. Praise the Lord!

A new season has begun for student Pack also. He graduated this year and has left Mahasarakham. That is the life of a student and those of us who work in student ministry, people move on. Praise the Lord that Wit, Pack and I were able to



A time to build up

Top: With Pack & Wit at the new center

L: The new Student Center R: Worship

A time to love

This year has been full of love! Just the other day as I was praying through my daily prayer cards, I looked at the names and knew that I was loved by the people I was praying for. What a tremendous honor to love and be loved! *"We love because God first love us (John 4:19)."*



I celebrated 60 years of life on February 3. (WHAT?!) It just so happened that 2 of the girls in one of my small groups had birthdays on February 4 & 5 so we went to dinner together. It was so much fun to celebrate life together and they gave me the sweetest gifts!



Also in February, my church sponsored me to go on a Thrive ladies retreat in Phuket, Thailand. I invited my 2 friends from my time in language school in 2014 and we had a great time reconnecting, resting and reflecting on our time in Thailand. I was so blessed by this opportunity and am thankful for my church family!

A time to love

Top: Birthday w/ Mickey, Risa and Pam

Bottom: Thrive Retreat with friends from language school, Jill and Pam

A time to uproot

"For everything there is a season..." (Eccl. 3:1). As I started this term (my 3rd) in 2021, I began praying that God would show me when it was time to leave Thailand and return to the US. When is the right time to leave? This past year, God has made it very clear that my time as a missionary in Thailand is coming to an end as I complete this term. My team here started off with 3 of us in 2019 and it will grow to 9 people this summer with more possibly coming in the near future. With a growing team and completing 10 years this year, it's a good time to leave. It's a joy to be uprooted from something that will continue to grow by God's grace. There is no way around the ending of this season in my life but I rejoice in knowing that *"He has made everything beautiful in its time (Eccl. 3:11)."*

I will return to the U.S. on July 1. I will share more about those details in my next prayer letter. Until then, please keep in touch and know that I have been loved and encouraged by your prayers these past 10+ years.

Blessings,
Amy Cottle

Prayer requests:

- Praise the Lord for a new student center!
- Pray that the new student center will be a blessing to the community
- Pray that the church plant, Bible Christian Church of Mahasarakham, will grow in number and faith
- Pray for Pack to persevere in his faith and see the need to read his Bible
- Pray for student Jo to grow in her faith after we've studied the Bible together a few times
- Pray for me that I will be joyful and see the beauty in the ending of my time in Thailand

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