

October 2022



Thai Times w/ Amy Cottle



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

Dear friends and family,

I hope everyone is doing well. It is the tail end of the rainy season here in Thailand which has brought lower temperatures but very high humidity. I am grateful that I live in a university town with a lot of laundromats with clothes dryers. No more using fans to dry my clothes when the humidity is high!

I am sorry that it has been a few months since my last prayer letter! I have been very busy and have struggled to do all that I have wanted to do. But today it is raining steadily, the roads are flooded and the temps are cooler (80s) so it's a good time to sit and write about what God has been doing in Maha Sarakham.

Student Center Kickoffs

We opened the student center in early August with 6 kick-offs! We now have freshman, sophomores and juniors coming, 2 sections each...180 students in all! It has been great to meet in-person again although the students are still wearing masks which makes it very hard to remember their faces.



Sunday Bible Discussion Group

In August, we also started meeting in-person on Sunday afternoons to discuss Bible stories with students who want to learn more about Jesus. We have only one returning student, Grace, who is back from the U.S. However, we have had a number of our English Education students come in addition to Paul, who is a Cambodian Christian student. He has been an encouragement to us as he has shared his testimony of coming to faith from a Buddhist background in Cambodia. A few of the students have even stayed on afterwards to attend the Thai

church plant meeting at our center. So far none of the students have made professions of faith but we know that God's Word does not return void.



New church plant at the student center

In early June, a Thai Christian professor approached us to have her group join with us to have a church at the student center on Sunday evenings. This group was formerly a church that was started by a missionary couple many years ago but their numbers decreased to just a few members and they no longer have a church

building. We have been praying that we could partner with a local Thai person to start a church plant but we hadn't met the right person yet. Praise the Lord for Dr. Awd! Our numbers are still very low but we have consistently met since June so we are thankful for the good start.



Church plant members. Back row: me, Del (missionary), Professor Awd, Got & Kon. Front row: Paul, Luck, Arnie (missionary), Elizabeth (short-termer) and Gut (son of Got & Kon). Not pictured: Good (daughter of Got & Kon)

What God has been teaching me

God has been working not only in the hearts of the students but in my heart as well. I would love to report that we have many students coming to faith but that isn't happening. Sometimes I wonder if I am making any difference here. But God has strengthened me each day, reminding me recently that our work here is *preparing* hearts to believe in Him. Belief in God and the ability to have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ is a foreign concept to Thai people. Most of the students see themselves as good people who don't need a relationship with God. One student commented that he learned a new English word from us...forgiveness. What an important word for him to know! That encourages me to labor on that many people here in Maha Sarakham may experience God's forgiveness for themselves and come to saving faith.

I hope you enjoy the Fall season. Thank you for your partnership and prayers! I would love to hear from you so please reach out to me. It's nice to remain connected to people back home and hear how you are doing!

Blessings,
Amy Cottle

Prayer requests:

- Praise the Lord that we have many students hearing about Jesus and thinking about what it means to have a relationship with God!
- Pray for the salvation of those students God is calling to Himself
- Pray that students will want to continue to learn more about Jesus at our Sunday Bible story group
- Pray that the church plant will be rooted in God's Word and will grow in faith and number
- Pray that I won't grow weary in doing good and know that my work here is not in vain

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