

October 2023



Dear friends and family,  
I hope you are doing well! My life has been very busy these past few months. We continue to have many people visit our ministry for short periods of time to either help us, encourage us or see for themselves if the Lord is calling them to serve here. We are thankful for them and pray that God uses them to mobilize more people to join the work in Thailand.

### **Pack is baptized!**

Praise the Lord that Pack was baptized on September 10! After nine years in Thailand, this was the first baptism that I got to witness and I am so grateful. Pack shared in his testimony that when he first started coming to the student center, he was not interested in learning about Jesus. He came to play games and practice his English. But as he learned about Jesus, he started thinking about the impact Christianity has had on the world and compared that with his own Buddhist beliefs. He made a decision to place his trust in Jesus. After studying the Bible with Wit and I for a few weeks, he decided to take the next step of faith and be baptized. Recently he told his parents about his conversion and baptism. He was surprised to learn that his dad was okay with him becoming a Christian and even advised him that if he wants to be a Christian, then he should do it whole-heartedly by being baptized. His mother, however, believes that Buddhism is the better way to live life.



Continue to pray for Pack to grow in his faith and to prioritize it in his life. Although he has been attending church, he hasn't had the time to study the Bible with Wit and me this past month. He also reports that he doesn't have

time to read his Bible every day although he does read it on occasion.

### **Church Plant and Community Outreach updates**

We continue to reach out into the various communities around us. As always, there are more opportunities to reach Thai people than there are missionaries that can do the work! As our team has grown to 7 people, three are focused solely on the church plant and community outreach. My role in the community is to teach English to children on Saturday mornings while my teammate Del teaches English to the older children or adults.

An exciting addition to our church plant is the start of a cell group at the Department of Pharmacy. This cell group is focused on believers and has been a great opportunity for P.O., a newer Christian, to study the Bible again. There are 2 Christian students in the Pharmacy Department and we are hoping they will join.



### Paul's Story

Over the past few years, I have been so encouraged by one of our students, Paul from Cambodia. Paul is not his real name but it is the nickname he gave himself from the Bible. He came to Mahasarakham University on a scholarship to study Hotel Management and Tourism. He was introduced to our student center by another Cambodian Christian, Hannah.



Top: Me, Ohm, Paul and Lisa



Bottom: Paul at our church plant

When Paul arrived here in 2019, he didn't speak Thai and nor much English but he faithfully came to the student center to discuss the Bible. He loves to share his testimony that when he was a child in Cambodia, there was a church nearby that was run by Korean missionaries. He would go to the church to learn Korean and eat snacks but when he was a teenager, he decided to make Jesus the Lord of his life. He was disciplined by the Korean missionaries until his parents told him that he could no longer go to church. He never stopped believing in Jesus and would still go to church on occasion. When he came to Thailand to study, he immediately started going to church each Sunday. Even though he didn't have transportation (and I would take him when I could), he would borrow a friend's motorbike and go. Now that he has his own motorbike, he faithfully goes to church in the morning and our church in the evening. He also started attending the cell group our team hosts and you can see him in the picture above at cell group. His life has been a source of encouragement to me as we see many Thai people show an interest in Jesus, go to church a few times and then disappear. Praise the Lord for students like Paul who persevere in their faith.

### What God has been teaching me

Have you ever read a Bible verse that you know well but see it in a different way for the first time? This happened for me with *1 Corinthians 13:8 (ESV)* - "Love never ends..." I immediately asked myself, 'If love never ends, how am I loving the people God has put into my life?' I must confess that I tend to think more about how people around me should love ME rather than what I should be doing to love them better. I'm sure I am not the only one to think this! So God has been teaching me about what it looks like to love others by serving them sacrificially without expecting anything in return. I haven't perfected this nor do I think I ever will but **increasingly** I am looking for ways to demonstrate this love that never ends. The best part is that I am assured that Jesus's death and resurrection cancels out all my failures of love!

Thank you for reading my prayer letter and for all the ways you support me and the work in Thailand!

Is there a Bible verse that you have seen in a new way recently? I would love to know what God has been teaching you so please keep in touch!

Blessings,  
Amy Cottle

#### Prayer requests:

- Praise the Lord for the many visitors! Pray for more workers to come to Thailand!
- Praise the Lord for Pack's baptism! Pray that he will prioritize learning more about Jesus and grow in faith.
- Pray that the community outreach events and cell group will bring more people into the kingdom of God.
- Pray for Paul and Christian students in Thailand to live a life of faith, sharing the Good News with others.
- Pray also for me that I will focus on the things for eternity and keep my eyes on Jesus

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