

The Scriptures foretell many great things yet to be fulfilled before the end of the world; but what great difficulties seem to be in the way! We seem at present to be very far from such a state as is foretold in the Scriptures; but yet we have abundant reason to expect, that these things, however seemingly difficult, will be accomplished in their season. We see the faithfulness of God to his promises hitherto; how true he has been to his church, and how he has remembered his mercy from generation to generation....This should strengthen our faith in those promises, and encourage us, and stir us up to earnest prayer to God for the accomplishment of the great and glorious things which yet remain to be fulfilled. *Jonathan Edwards 1739*

December 13, 2017



Greetings in the Risen Christ!

My 14 years as a Facilitator for teams working in North Thailand and Beyond is due to end on Dec. 31st. My replacement is due to be Sam Lim. Some of you have met Sam. He is married to Chalor's niece, Kul. I am confident that he will do a great job in this role and I hope he enjoys it as much as I have. With four daughters, balancing time between family and ministry will present some challenges. So your prayers are greatly valued.

CRICS: My time on the working committee of Chiang Rai Int. Christian School will end in March. I am still on the legal board and have offered to help with a task force called Beyond CRICS. The purpose of the task force will be to explore ways to provide quality Christian education for those who cannot benefit from on campus classes. Some families who are involved in cross cultural work live too far away from CRICS to send their kids to school each day. Others opt for home schooling but need support to do it well. Still others would move to more distant locations where there is little or no Christian witness – if they could find a suitable means for educating their kids. I do believe that children's education is one of the greatest challenges and also one of the greatest opportunities that we face as we seek to spread the Gospel to all the people and peoples of the the earth.



Mae Sai Shan Migrant Children's Ministry: As always, December is the Christmas season. By late November the stores are playing English Christmas songs to entice customers to spend more than they ought. This past Sunday was our big Christmas event. Several other churches took part and songs were sung in four languages. Sam was our guest preacher. The children had 3 dance routines. Thank you for your prayers. Many parents of kids in our program attended. Even several whose children are now adults came as well. One lady who traditionally opposed the Gospel also attended and even helped with the food preparation.

I have been invited to preach Christmas messages at two different Baptist churches on Sunday, Dec. 17, Sunday, Dec. 24 and on Sunday, Dec. 23. The December 23 date is for 2018. I am not so famous that people need to book me over a year in advance. Rather this is simply

one sign of the changes in Thai society in the 30 years since I first arrived. In the good old days long term planning was rare. Now it is common. Plans can still change from hour to hour but at least there is a basic plan in place.

Future Plans: Between the Christmases I do expect to keep fairly busy. Shan language study should be renewed in earnest in February. Then from June 2018 to June 2019 I have been asked to deputize for the OMF International Coordinator for Evangelization. This will mean a few trips to Singapore over the year. OMF's mission is to "share the good news of Jesus Christ in all its fullness with East Asia's peoples to the glory of God." So my responsibilities will be to maintain the coordination of the various efforts throughout the Fellowship. Meanwhile, I am teaching the Missions' course again at Phayao Bible Seminary.



I have also been invited to teach a class in an upcoming Thai Perspectives on the World Christian Movement class. The Church in Thailand has grown in numbers of believers, numbers of congregations and in spiritual maturity over the past few decades. It is now becoming an active participant in the task of completing the Great Commission. The opportunities for cooperation in these last years of world evangelization are one more reason for those of who are privileged to live in this age to consider ourselves blessed beyond measure. Pray that we can help local believers to understand what God's will is for them with regard to the Great Commission and those still beyond reach of the Gospel.

Myanmar: Chalor had a good trip to the Shan State of Myanmar in September. She hopes to make more trips in the future and help the Shan believers to share the Gospel with their own children as well as the children of non-Christian families around them. God is raising up a number of people with a similar burden and it is our prayer that together they can reach the several million Shan children and youth for whom the Gospel is still something utterly unknown.

Family: May has begun an online TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) certification course while Charlene is finishing up her Scoping course. Both are active in various Church activities and are putting their bilingual abilities to good use. We are a happy family with much to be thankful for.

Maran-atha!

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