

The SEARLES in THAILAND

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About 10 days ago my friend Doug Ritter, the brother that does our prayer letter wrote to me and told me that the letter was due. For some reason I'm having difficulty getting it on paper. First let me say all things are very very good. Last month Maureen had cataracts surgery. Because Nong Khai is remote, after the operation she stayed in Nakorn Nayok to recover and to do everything possible to protect the eye. The two boys and I were left by ourselves to "batch it". Since my culinary expertise is limited to about 6 things it made going to the grocery store very easy. Bread, milk, eggs, peanut butter, hotdogs and anything we could pour out of a packet and eat. The kids were very glad when she came back.

Nakorn Nayok:

Last month in Nakorn Nayok we had two baptisms. One of the girls, Beck, was actually saved several years ago but had not been baptized. When her cousin whose name is BungPawnn was saved and was going to be baptized Beck also followed suit. It has been a blessing to see BungPawnn's countenance. When she saw Maureen in Nakorn Nayok she came up with a big smile and showed her new Bible that she bought with her own money.

"M"

I've been praying that the Lord would see fit to bless us with four new members that will actually be workers very soon thereafter the Lord allowed me to meet a young man whose name is "M". "M" is about 27 years old and recently moved to Nakorn Nayok from Udawn, not far from my 2nd work in the North. He has been singing specials leading the music and will soon be teaching a Sunday school class. When I go down to Nakorn Nayok the 1st week of the month I will take him some Bible study material and hopefully the Lord will build a foundation that will lead to something significant..

Maus:

At least 30 years ago a missionary and friend Jim Hayes started a church in Surin. One of the 1st people that he was able to lead to the Lord was a man named Supop. Supop had several children one a son named Maus. Maus is a hard worker and always has been involved in helping churches. A church would lose a pastor and he would fill-in and keep things going. What a blessing, A year or so ago Maus and his family came to visit me in Nakorn Nayok and asked if they could help from time to time. "Time to time", has now progressed to being in Nakorn Nayok 3 weeks out of the month. Which has been perfect with me going back and forth from Nong Khai. Now there is a possibility he would be willing to be there full time. The problem is he lives about an hour away. I'm not sure this would be a workable situation for a pastor. For the moment I am thankful for what I have.

Nong Khai,

I believe we are seeing some spiritual growth and openness during the church services. It used to be I could ask a question in every conceivable manner and I would get no response whatsoever. I don't know what to say, if it has been me that has learned or it has been the church people that have learned. Taking our lead from Joshua 24 where God reviews at least 24 things that He had done to bless the children of Israel, we review what God through Christ has done specifically that previous week. As they are forced to remember and review there is far more life and joy in the services. What I'm praying for is that joy would spill over into Monday through Saturday. AH YES, the SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR but in reality we don't have anything else.

Lighthouse Home:

Lighthouse Home keeps Maureen and I very very busy. She told me this evening that we've actually been working here 5 years. It is absolutely incredible that it has been that long. You know what they say time flies when you're having fun. It is fun to see the boys grow. Now that I'm doing some farming its fun to see anything grow. A church and New York sent me a questionnaire. One of the questions was when are you scheduled for furlough. A what? This year I guess, but who has time?

Every morning I look up, every morning I pray, every morning I pray that the Lord would give us our "daily bread" and what it's going to take for us to live, grow and prosper. It really is a blessing being here.

Thank you for making it possible.

Tim and Maureen in the paddy