

The SEARLES in THAILAND

Field: P.O. Box 21, NakornNayok 26000, Thailand, (386) 292 6835, Searles4thailand@gmail.com
Board: C. M.C., PO Box 219228, Houston TX 77218-9228, Phone: (281) 599-7411, contact@cmcmiissions.org
Sending Church: Waterloo Baptist Church, Waterloo, Chula, Ga 31733, jpangle6081@gmail.com

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I arrived back in Thailand February fifteenth on a 90 day visa. The first 30 days was taken up with quarantine, a visa extension, and multiple trips to Bangkok to apply for a work permit. With all this it didn't leave much money or time to do much. The Lord sometimes makes us stop and know that he is God.

When I left 2 years ago NakornNayok was being over seen by a contractor, Bible school student named Moss. After almost three years of handling the church by himself, Moss, wasn't content with the progress of the church. He and I re-connected to see if with us pulling together God wouldn't cause spiritual growth in the hearts of the people. It was good getting back into the work slowly. I got to work on a lot of Scripture memory, prayer walks, and I was able to confront God with what has not been happening here. I'm trying to find out what part of His plan I am handling wrong.

A long time ago my wife gave me the concept that if she is teaching the kids how to read but they are not learning -- then she is not really teaching. With that in mind the question is, are the people here grasping the content of the messages enough to make a difference in there every day lives. To get more "mileage" out of the messages that Moss preaches we have been re-capping and reviewing his messages. Moss and I work together. When he gets done preaching -- a short message 20-30 minutes. I will ask him what were the 1 or 2 points that he wanted to get across. Initially I asked the congregation what his points were. They came up with some answers but it really was not where he was going. Moss then went back over his message. We talked about it, and made application. The people received it well. On top of this we made flash cards to review his past messages and we review as many messages as time will allow. My goal is to get these message points clearly understood, then into long-term memory, so that when trials, trouble and adversity does come, people have access to the verses and concepts.

One thing I have learned by not having a good memory is that I can memorize if I review. The boys in NongKhai, are doing well. Very smart very sweet and obedient if you check on them. I think the Lord may be using the "Farm" to give them a vision. Not to be farmers but basically to show them how life works. Just by us changing a few very small things the chickens that were losing money are now breaking even and soon will be profitable after we cull out the older chickens.

Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it. It may seem that my goal is to raise chickens and to plant lemon trees that is not the case. What I am really doing is raising two kids that have been thrown away. By going to the feed store and then me having them ask advice from adults about how to raise chickens gave them confidence. We came back and implemented what they were taught. Immediately we saw loss go to breaking even. It was incredible them knowing they had solved a problem. As a side note by us having a "farm" the people in the village relate much better to us.

When I came here in February, I came at the drop of a hat. Thailand opened and I came even though all the loose ends in the States were not tied up. My wife is still in the States because I really did not know that we were going to be able to stay. So on the 26 of this month I'm going to be going back to the States for about three months. There are some things I have to finish, then Maureen and I will be coming back over here. I would like a year visa but I will take every 90 day visa that they give me.

Thank You for your prayers, support and Love

Tim & Maureen