

Mark 10:27 "...With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible."

February 22, 2010



Dear Friends,

It seems that the hardest part of missions is breaking down the barriers that keep us from being able to share the Gospel with others. Since our last letter, we have been encouraged to see barriers broken down, and then discouraged to find other barriers still before us.

One of the hardest barriers is getting people to come to church for the first time. Most Thai people are Buddhist and don't even know what a church is, so they are reluctant to come. In spite of that, we had around 120 people come to church for Christmas! Then 70 people attended our English class Christmas program! In addition to that, we did a Christmas program for around 700 students at a public school!

The next barrier is getting enough opportunity to explain the Gospel completely to a person. Many people come to church and English classes and hear the Bible lessons, but so often they quit coming before they really understand. So, it is really exciting when this barrier is broken down, and people come over and over again! In December, two girls that have been coming to church for 3 years were saved!

A great barrier that hinders us from reaching men is alcohol. As we go soul-winning, we are always amazed at how many men are drinking. We have a much easier time getting to witness to women



and children. However, recently God has given great opportunities to witness to several men! One of those men is even coming to church and another is coming for a Bible study on Saturdays!

Limited resources are a constant barrier we face. The main resource we are struggling with is

Please pray for: • Kristi is still struggling with health problems. The doctor thinks the problem is borderline nerve damage due to low vitamin B12 and folic acid. She has been a little stronger since taking the vitamins.

time! We pick up most of the people that come to church. Picking people up and taking them home for Sundays, Wednesdays, and even Saturdays' English/Bible classes is a huge time commitment. We rearranged our routes a few weeks ago in order to begin picking up in a new area 40 minutes away. This means that Richard drives one car for 4 hours and Matthew drives the other car for 4 hours just on Sundays to pick up and take people home. This is not only exhausting for the drivers, but wearing on the cars! They each have over 186,000 miles on them, but thankfully they are still running okay.

Then there is the never ending language barrier!

Although we are all quite functional at the Thai language, it always seems that there are new words that we still don't know. We recently had a new family start coming that speaks mostly Northern Thai. We speak Central Thai, the national language. They can speak Central Thai, but they prefer Northern Thai! Since Thailand has 4 versions of the Thai language and many tribal languages, we could never learn them all! Then last Sunday, a man called speaking either Burmese or a tribal language. Sadly, no one at the church could communicate with him.

Only God can break down the barriers and open doors for us to share the Gospel. Thank you for praying about these difficulties and please continue to pray for us as we daily continue striving to reach souls! We are thankful to know that we have faithful prayer partners like you! We are very grateful for all the ways you let God use you to encourage us and meet our needs! Also, thank you for all the Christmas cards, gifts, letters, and emails! God bless you!

Praise report:

· Joshua is doing better and the doctor said the lumps were just swollen lymph nodes!

· Our deaf member is back in church faithfully!

· We had a new deaf man come to church who is very interested in the Gospel!

Yours for Thailand,

Kriste Duag Richard and Kristi Guay Romans 10:14

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