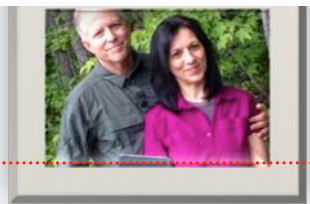




Banfe Family Newsletter May-June 2020



"Yea, so have I strived to preach the Gospel, not where Christ was named," (Romans 15:20)

CONTINUING GOD'S WORK IN THE FACE OF COVID-19

The book of Acts is a wonderful chronicle of the growth of the early Christian church with so many lessons for us as missionaries and for Pastors, as well as for members. One thing we learn from Paul is perseverance in the face of crisis. His goal did not change. As he says in 1 Corinthians 9:16 *"For though I preach the Gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea woe is unto me, if I preach not the Gospel."* His goal: *"That I might by all means save some."* Tribulation, necessities, hardships, they did not deter him. In Acts 9:25 there were those who wanted to kill him and the disciples *"let him down by the wall in a basket"*. Did his zeal diminish? Not at all. In verse 29 he *"Spake boldly in the name of Jesus Christ"*. They again went about to slay him. And in Acts 14, in Iconium, the Jews stirred up the gentiles against the brethren, and when they were aware of it they fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities Lycaonia, *"And there they preached the Gospel"*. Here Paul was stoned, and left for dead. But the scriptures say *"he rose up, and came into the city and the next day departed with Barnabas to Derbe"...."And when they had preached the Gospel to that city and taught many"*. Paul was one minded, relentlessly, unwavering in the work...**TO PREACH THE GOSPEL**. Yes, certainly this is a time during the global pandemic to re-assess methods. Governments around the world have clamped down on many venues for personal contact, making some traditional methods of reaching people more problematic. But, we preach Christ, and a necessity is laid upon us. So, certainly God will open up new avenues to herald the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which will allow the work to continue while it is still day. Missionaries have been challenged to use different tools. But, it is not a question of if we continue but how. We would like to share with you how God continues to bless His work, no matter the circumstances with Mission to Burma.

BURMESE ESL/THROUGH THE BIBLE

During our ministry to the Burmese in Thailand and Burma we witnessed how effective an "ESL (English as a second language) program Through the Bible" could be at reaching the Burmese. Normally we have only a short time to witness the Gospel with people. But with this program, we get them for 15 weeks and each week they get a concentrated dose of the doctrines of our faith and the gift of grace. The Burmese people, especially the young, see English as a way to a better job, and they are intently interested in American culture and language. So...after teaching it one on one, and realizing we wanted to continue and to reach out to places we couldn't reach due to geographic limitations, we decided to create a Moodle online program teaching English and Bible to Burmese people. The program is accessible through cell phones as well as tablets and computers. It has taken many hours of work for our Burmese partners and for us. The Moodle educational platform is one used by a majority of major universities and provides a great tool to teach online. We were able to use it free of charge. We can network via chat, blog and video conferencing. We are using speech recognition software and Gospel videos. During the program, they will watch 15 videos on the Gospel and take 15 quizzes on what they learned. The last session will be an invitation to accept Christ as their Saviour. We haven't even gone live yet and we have 35 people lined up to register for the course in Burma and Thailand! We are very excited and plans are to create an intermediate ESL course that goes through the Gospel of John, chapter by chapter, and an advanced course through Romans. Each course is one semester, 15 weeks long. Students receive a completion diploma, after passing their English and Bible final exam. We believe we will be ready to go live in less than a month!!! Praise the Lord.

RADIO MTB

The radio station is completely live. And we have partnered with Sermon Audio to archive sermons and programming. Already we have seen about 700 mp3 downloads and 330 mobile downloads of these Burmese language sermons on the Book of Hebrews and the Deity of Christ. The Burmese are being reached with Godly Christian music, preaching and teaching! Our radio program listenership is still developing and we look forward to it growing in the future. I have been working on more sermons to be translated and added to the programming.

PREACHING ONLINE

I started preaching live a new series of sermons on the Sermon on the Mount, in English for our English speaking Burmese friends. This work has a double benefit. We are not only able to preach the series online, but as the series continues to move forward, we can send finished sermons to Yangon for translating and re-preaching in Burmese on our radio station!

BIBLES FOR BURMA

We continue to seek funding to successfully complete our goal of sending 15,000 Old Judson whole Bibles to Burma. Can you imagine what an impact this will have on the Kingdom for Christ in Burma! We need more faithful people to step forward. We have a relationship with a donor who will send a second Bible for every 1 you purchase. Bibles are \$9 each landed and delivered to new believers. You have no idea what an impact your support for this project can make in the life of a Burmese. It may be your support will be their only chance to every own and read a Bible.

Sherrie and I love you all and are so thankful for your continued faithful prayer and support. God's work is truly a marvelous thing and we are so thankful you make it possible for us to continue the work of Mission to Burma.

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