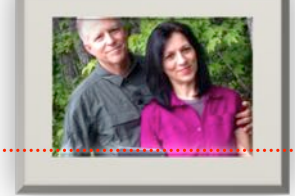




Banfe Family Newsletter August/September 2020



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

CLASSES HAVE NOW BEGUN: BURMESE ESL/THROUGH THE BIBLE

As we wait for Thailand to approve visas for re-entry, we are moving forward in our ministry. 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul gives instruction to Timothy: ***"And the things that thou has heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."*** Jesus tells us in Matthew 28:19 ***"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations."***

Teaching them to observe, to obey His commandments. Jesus says, ***"If ye love me, keep my commandments"***. So we are given the opportunity to teach others how to love Jesus. In just the four Gospels, teaching was a word describing what Jesus did over 27 times. And for Paul it was his love to teach, often in the synagogues, and staying at the school of one Tyrannus for two years to teach. Acts 5:42 ***"They ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."*** The Old Testament is rife with commands to teach the Law, to teach the children. As you would expect, in a country as poor as Burma, with government persecution of Christians, with unbelievably poor infrastructure, with the majority Burma over 99% Theravada Buddhist, it is incredibly difficult to get the Word to the people of Burma. But God has given us an open window. Praise His Holy name.

After 3 months of intense work, our ESL/Bible course has gone live. First we made over 60 instructional videos, building quizzes, setting up speech recognition software. Between 40 and 50 students are currently actively studying on the course including Buddhists who have never heard the good news as well as cultural Christians, most of whom never had a relationship with Christ. And the age group God has given us is perfect as He is perfect. The age of students is 15-35, with the average around 21. Some are village folk, and others college level students. We are so excited about this group, because they are the next movers and shakers of Burma and the Burmese people. Each week for the 15-week course they study English and they study the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By the time they finish and are awarded their diplomas they will have had 15 weeks teaching and quizzes in the stories, history and doctrines of the Bible, along with improving their proficiency in English. The 15th week is "invitation" week, during which they are given a clear invitation to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

The Burmese pastor, who is one of our teachers and assists with the program, is so excited and believes this program opens up amazing evangelical opportunities for those we could never reach in the heart of Burma. There is a hunger in Burma for English teaching but it is out of the reach of many of these poor Burmese. The course is android, iPhone, tablet, computer friendly! And where not everyone in Burma can afford to own a computer, everyone has a cell phone and can find a wireless location. Here is one story that has already surfaced. One student, Nyi Nyi Phyo Aung, is a Burmese Buddhist. I had seen that she just began the course and that she had finished the Gospel presentation and was about to begin with the in-depth Bible teaching. We sent her an encouraging email to continue on, that she had done well. Today I looked and saw that she has pushed the accelerator and dived into the Bible material, and had finished the video and quiz on "Sin: The Deadly Disease" and received a 100% score! Please pray with us for her to have courage to accept Christ. She will likely face severe rejection and persecution if she converts.

Our prayer is for us to move forward and to create an intermediate (book of John) and advanced (book of Romans) ESL course. This will set the foundation for continuing on in our vision of a Bible college during which they will be trained in the Bible

RADIO MTB: NEW SERIES AND AMAZING UPTICK IN LISTENERS

Our radio ministry is booming. But in a way we hadn't expected. Last newsletter I reported that there had been 700 downloads of our sermons in Burmese. As of today downloads of our sermons have more than doubled. And over 532 have been mobile downloads. The Word is getting out. We are just completing a new program and around 20 of my sermons, with a series on the Sermon on the Mount, called "Send the Light", is being translated and recorded in Burma and should air in the next month or so. We are very excited to pair our radio program with our online ESL/Bible/Bible College in the future.

BIBLES FOR BURMA: FIRST DEPOSIT MADE IN FAITH

News: We just made our first deposit in faith for the printing. We are jubilant about being privileged by God and to partner with BEAMS Bible ministry to bring 10-15,000 Burmese Judson Bibles into Burma early next year. God has been faithful, but are still in need of further support but God is good and He will provide. Please pray with us for this project. Just imagine what this many Bibles put into the hands of Burmese who could likely never afford one, could do for the cause of Christ in Burma.

GOD'S PREPARATION OF A GOOD SHEPHERD

Burma is rife with false teachers and false doctrines. How can sheep be gathered without good shepherds? Well we are so delighted that Pastor Moses Van, under our support and mentorship, is beginning his last course in his Masters of Ministry at the Crown College of the Bible online. English is his second language and he is getting A's and B's in complicated Biblical subjects and has remained strong and faithful throughout. He will be receiving his degree this coming spring. And then he will enter the battle in Burma to ***"earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints"***.

Sherrie and I are truly amazed by your love, your support, and your prayers. We love and pray for you all. We are God's servants and your hands and feet to a people who live in darkness to bring them a great light. Lord Bless all of you.

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