



# Banfe Family Newsletter October/November 2020



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

## **OUR HOPE IN UNSTABLE TIMES: “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness.”**

The times are clearly difficult ones with Covid 19 and our highly stressed economy. Some churches have become highly politicized, so partisan, they seem to place too much hope in a worldly and corrupt political system. In my younger years, I lived in Washington D.C. for 8 years and worked at the Export Import Bank right across from the White House. The culture there is exactly what you would expect in a place dominated by a secular world view, political parties and people jockeying for power and wealth. The LORD makes it clear, that we as Christians should not be surprised, that the world will wax worse and worse. There is only one hope, and it is in the person of Jesus Christ. Sure, policies might change temporarily when one party or another assumes power. But the only hope lies in the conversion of souls to Christ. Psalm 9:17 says “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God”. Our mission is clear. We are to introduce them to the one who is the way, the truth and the life, whatever side of the political aisle they fall on. They all need Jesus. We are all sinners saved by grace. The mission of the church is to spread the love and grace of Christ to all people. Only then can there be lasting change. Where is your hope found? We can rest in His hope even in unstable times. He will never change.

## **BURMESE ESL/THROUGH THE BIBLE: NUMBERS DOUBLED!**

As we wait for our long term visas to be approved, the work goes on. And there is light at the end of the tunnel as Thai government policy is slowly opening. In fact God is doing a wonderful work even in this Covid 19 era. To the left are a couple of



our first graduates. The last time we reported we had around 50-60 students. Praise God, now we opened a second course and it has doubled!!! And we now have a great mix of village people, as well as college students in biology, geology, engineering. Many will be will be the next generation of leaders in Burma. It is amazing how we can reach people with this program across Burma and Thailand who we could never have reached. I reported last time on Nyi Nyi Phyo Aung, a Buddhist student. She became the first graduate of the program and scored over

90% on the 66 questions Bible final and has asked to be a teaching assistant. Sherrie is excited to be a conversation partner on a weekly basis with Nyi Nyi and some other students online. Please pray that the combination of Sherrie’s testimony and all that they have learned about Jesus leads them to call on His name. Now we are working intensely on the “Intermediate” ESL/Bible course through the Gospel of John. It has a more intense Bible core and we have much translation to complete.

## **RADIO MTB: FIRST ANNUAL REPORT**

We just ran our first Radio MTB annual report. What a blessing! Even though this includes time when the station was building listenership, there were over 120,000 listener minutes, 650 unique listeners and this was in 50 countries. In addition to the online listening, since last month we have had 480 downloads, including 130 mobile downloads of our radio sermons! Praise God. Soon we will be moving to dedicated computers and we are eagerly awaiting translations for our sermons in the “Send the Light” program. Please pray for our transition to new app and computers, that we don’t lose any listeners.

## **BIBLES FOR BURMA: THE LAST BIBLES**



This is a picture of a Burmese pastor receiving the last 5 of our Bibles. That’s all of them. They can’t get any more of God’s Word at this time. They are just not available or too expensive. Can you imagine? *However.....* We are praying for our Bibles for Burma project to deliver 10,000 Burmese Judson Bibles to Burma/Thailand during the first of next year. So far, God’s people have provided a large portion of the cost for these Bibles. Another church just expressed their desire to help with this God’s work. Amen. We are praying for God’s provision for the rest.



## **GOD’S PROTECTION OF A GOOD SHEPHERD**

Last newsletter I told you of Pastor Moses Van who is excelling in his studies at Crown and in his last course for his Master of Ministry. What an accomplishment for a Burmese native speaker to finish a seminary degree in English. Please pray for him. They found some Covid 19 cases in his area and the paranoid Thai government has instituted lockdowns. We helped Pastor Moses with our “Bread and Fishes” ministry to collect food for him and his 10 children for one month in

preparation for the lockdown and potential food shortage. In the picture you see what they purchased: Eggs, some tomatoes, two packages of pasta, oil, peanuts, canned soup or fruit, a bag of rice. What a meager supply. This sure reminds us of how blessed we are. Please pray for them.

Sherrie and I are truly amazed by your love, your support, and your prayers. We love and pray for you all. Lord Bless all of you.

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