

## The Banfe's Newsletter December 2024



FRUIT, MUCH FRUIT "Yea, so have I strived to preach the Gospel, not where Christ was named."

What a journey life is. And how blessed we are that we do not navigate this time we have on earth alone. We comforter and guide without whom we would be absolutely lost. Can you imagine your life without Him? Well, billions can, and we are here to introduce them to the one who will change their lives forever. Never again to be alone. This last month has been a major journey for me as I served the Lord in our Edify and Reach Campaign" on the border of Thailand and Burma. During the campaign I contracted a nasty virus probably while working with the refugees and ended up in the hospital with pneumonia. But the Lord blessed us still with an amazing amount of fruit in the ministry during this time and with healing for my body. It was truly a pre-Christmas present which only His mercy and grace could bestow. So, I want to encourage you all that your prayers and support have received God's favor, and He has done marvelous things.

## **The Pastor Conference: Hebrews:**



To prepare for this conference, I wrote a 200-page commentary on the book of Hebrews. It was a wonderful walk for me through the pages of this amazing book brimming with spiritual lessons. Over 40 pastors attended from Burma and Thailand. Some risked the trip across war torn Burma across the border to Mae Sot. It was an intense conference, morning to dinner for several days. The fellowship was sweet and the spirit wonderful. We labored, prayed and studied together. Many of these pastors have little opportunity for training and all were hungry to dive in. Some were converted Buddhists. And it bore sweet and precious fruit. One man who was a Buddhist convert said, he never knew you could study the Bible as we did and was so encouraged by what he had learned. We were able to give

them tools to study and understand the Bible, to fall in love with His Word. One lady who came with her pastor gave a heart rendering testimony. She was a Buddhist convert to Christianity. But lately she had been contemplating taking her own life, committing suicide. She said after in depth study of Hebrews at the conference, where we learned so much about our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ and His better sacrifice, His Deity, His better testament/promises, she was full of joy & her previous thoughts of suicide were gone! These wonderful Christian Pastors just need to be fed; to have the Word of God opened to them so they can then teach their churches.

## Mission to Burma/Wilds Youth Camp







What an incredible camp. We had over 80 youth attend this 4–5-day camp. These were poor kids, some who lived at the trash dump. I was told by counsellors many of them ate so much, not having food at home, that they got stomach aches. Over 40% were non-Christian refugees, mostly Buddhist. And many of the rest were only cultural Christians who did not know Christ. A large portion knew nothing of Christ. We knew that this would be a challenge, but God sent His Spirit to open hearts. For devotions they used our Gospel booklet discipleship program from Genesis to the Ascension and return, living the Christian life. We had Bibles for all and there were group devotions twice a day, preaching, Bible studies. By the end of intense camp, 20 non-Christians professed faith in Christ and asked to learn more about Christ. HALLELUJAH! In response we have set up a discipleship training for 2 days with the 20 at our church headquarters in December. And those who are ready will be baptized and offered a church home at one of a number of churches in our group.



## **ESL Fruit Bearing**

Here is a picture of a Muslim student of our ESL/Bible School in Malaysia who professed faith in Christ. We have many students from Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore in the program. Just look at the joy in his face. From bondage to freedom, from judgment to grace. We are expanding our ESL program to over 100 students per semester or 3-400/year, for the Beginning program. They receive 15 weeks of in-depth English AND Bible lessons in the beginning course and 15 weeks verse by verse through John in the intermediate. Many are

Buddhist and some Muslim. This is probably one of our most fruitful ministries for witnessing the Gospel. We can reach people in villages and cities via internet. We are now taking on an admissions coordinator. With more help on board, we can ramp up our follow-up of alumni, prayer request ministry, our discipleship program, and organize our annual graduation ceremony with Gospel preaching. The Lord is blessing this ministry with promulgating His Word in Burma, Thailand & Malaysia to youth & young professionals, as well as older adults. Please pray for MTB ESL/Bible school. Please pray about supporting our ESL/Bible ministry with a monthly donation.

This all would not be possible without you. We are so thankful for your love, prayers and support for us and for the lost in the uttermost. Thank you all for the blessings you have bestowed upon us by co-laboring with us in the ministry of MTB..

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<u>Donations to:</u> mwbm.org, Macedonia World Baptist Missions, Dr. Peter and Sherrie Banfe Sending Church, Central Baptist Church, Ocala Fl, Pastor Lonnie Moore