

Feb 2013

We are approximately one month into this two month spell in Thailand. It has been a busy time and has passed quickly. I'm sure the next few weeks will be the same. We thought this would be a good time to give you a short update.

When we arrived in Bangkok we spent a couple of days resting before travelling on to Chiang Mai. Unfortunately we picked up a 'bug' or ate something that didn't agree with us and were unwell for the first few days.

Soon after we arrived in Chiang Mai the first of two sets of meetings started. This was a one week international conference for NTM mission leaders from around the world. The second was our own leadership meetings for our field here in Asia which lasted for another week. Looking back I think these were some of the best leadership meetings I have been involved in.

At the conference there was daily ministry from the Word followed by workshops and discussions about the future and direction of the work world wide. We are thankful for the godly men who seek to provide vision and strategies for the work of NTM in our ever changing world.

Our own field meetings went well too. Each of the 'works' were discussed and prayed for. Decisions were made regarding our existing areas of work and consideration given to potential new openings for ministry. Of course all of this will require work and we are aware of the need for more labourers in the months and years ahead. The contexts in which we work may look different now than fifteen or twenty years ago but it still takes people who are willing to count the cost and make personal sacrifices to bring God's Word to needy people.



Once again I was able to go with a colleague to visit some villages near the Burmese border. We were especially interested in finding the locations of more Thai Yai villages but along the way we visited Musser, Lahu and Lisu villages too. We found ourselves in some very interesting places!!

Road to a Musser Village - In the Village

Eating with some Musser men



On a separate trip I was able to attend a yearly Mon festival which is held to celebrate the birthday of an ancient Mon ruler, Queen Chamadevi. It was interesting to see the mix of Mon traditional religion and modern Buddhism. It was also good on both of these trips to meet new people and build on existing relationships.



Mon Spiritual Leader

Bobby has appreciated being here and being more closely involved. She continues to work on assessments of various people groups, gleaning whatever information she can from the sources available. It's not been easy though and she is often tired, so she tries to pace herself as best she can.

Thank you for your prayers over these past weeks and until we return again to N Ireland mid-March.

Norman & Bobby