

Working in South East Asia with...

Back in the UK

We got back to the UK mid-March and settled in to life here fairly quickly. While we continue with much of our normal work during our time at home, our activities have changed a bit. Of course we enjoy spending extra time with our family and seeing more of our grandchildren. We appreciate closer fellowship with our church family and meeting up with friends and supporters when possible. Less 'exciting' but equally important, are all the visits to various hospitals, doctors, opticians, dentists, etc. that seem to have taken up a lot of our time recently. Without a reasonable level of health it would be impossible to effectively continue in ministry. Thank you for praying for our health, strength and spiritual encouragement too.



With the arrival of June we're looking forward to visiting Judith, Allan and the boys in Canada. Benjamin, James and Micah are 10, 7 and 4 respectively and have grown and changed a lot since we last saw them three years ago. They have a number of activities planned for us but it will be great to just spend time with them again.

Later in June David, Alicia and family will also be heading to Canada to work at a Christian camp. Over the summer months they will be in charge of the work and discipleship programme for the young people who attend the camp. This is a huge step of faith for them and I know they would appreciate your prayers.

Political Unrest

Political upheavals are taking place in just about every part of the world. A few weeks ago Naomi was in Nigeria on behalf of her mission organisation. After a successful time visiting missionaries around the country she stayed with friends in the capital Abuja before flying home. While she was there a bomb exploded in an Abuja market not far from where she was staying. A few days later 200 school girls were abducted in northern Nigeria. These attacks by Boko Haram drew the attention of the western media and politicians to their ongoing reign of terror in that country. We were thankful for Naomi's safe return home but we are reminded that we live in a very troubled world.

We have been watching closely recent events in Thailand too. It is good that there was no bloodshed during the recent coup but we look forward to there being a greater level of stability in the country. Pray that doors will remain open for the gospel in Thailand and as a base for many working in surrounding countries.



God at Work

Part of the process of church planting in an unreached people group is to prepare culturally relevant, foundational Bible teaching lessons in the language of the people. These lessons are checked for clarity of communication with some of the tribal people.

One team that is in the early stages of lesson development explains how God is at work even in this preparation process. They were working on a lesson about Jacob. In the story Jacob received the blessing even though he resorted to trickery.

The Bible teacher shared some of the questions that arise in the passage and the helper's reactions:

Doesn't God know what is going on? Doesn't he know that Jacob lied and tricked his father? Is Jacob going to die because of his actions?

(One of the driving philosophies of this culture is, 'Do good, receive good, do evil, receive evil.' They are rightly surprised to see Jacob receiving good after engaging in trickery and deception.)

Next we read the passage of Jacob's dream and angels going back and forth from heaven to earth. God then blessed Jacob with the Abrahamic covenant. In this lesson I emphatically stated that God blessed Jacob despite his actions. This is the exact opposite of 'do good things, you'll receive good things.' How is that possible?

The tribal man pipes up, 'Oh okay, God made his promise to Abraham. He never forgets. He always does what he says. Yes, Jacob did bad things. But it was promised that the descendants of Abraham would be blessed. The deliverer would come through Abraham that would mean Jacob as well. That is why God blessed Jacob.'

Biblical truth is challenging their present world view. They are learning about the character and nature of God. When presented with the gospel message they will understand that the promises of God relating to judgement, faith, grace and salvation can be totally depended upon. Their salvation need not be based on a confusing mix of old and new beliefs but on the Word of God.

Praise:

- ❖ For the church planting, Bible translating and teaching going on in tribal areas throughout SE Asia
- ❖ For contacts being made and opportunities to expand our work in the region
- ❖ For our health and the ability to serve there
- ❖ That we are able to connect with all our family over this summer

Prayer:

- ❖ That we will know the best places to locate new workers
- ❖ For suitable new workers to join our team
- ❖ For the political leaders of the country of Thailand & for progress toward political stability in the country

Thank you for praying for us and others who labour with us on the field. There are many personal and ministry challenges that face each of us on a daily basis. It is God's grace and presence that strengthens us in these situations and we are encouraged by your support and prayers..

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Gifts toward personal or ministry expenses can be sent to the finance office at New Tribes Mission at the above address or online at www.ntm.org.uk indicating that the gift is for N & B Murphy. UK tax payers qualify for tax to be reclaimed on their giving. For more details contact us or the New Tribes Mission finance office.

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