

Where has the time gone?

I've been home from Thailand for a month now and it's hard to know where the time has gone. Getting a letter out has been on my 'to do' list since I got back so I'd better get on with it or it will become much too long.

February 2nd Bobby and I took that familiar journey down to Dublin airport and stayed overnight in preparation for the flight to Bangkok next day. Staying over and taking this part slowly seems to help as we separate and for Bobby as she drives back home alone. The two months that followed would be very busy for both Bobby and me.

On the Road

I got back to Thailand and into the flow of things fairly quickly. Shortly after I arrived we had three days of field leadership meetings. It's always good for the team to get together, discuss what is taking place in the different ministry locations and make plans for the coming weeks and months. As a result I found myself driving with a colleague to visit a team working in the N East, to help them with plans for the next stage of ministry. Any time I'm in the N East I like to fit in a visit to the Bru, so it was good to spend a few days there as well.



Things you see along the way

More of the Bru New Testament completed

Some exciting things are going on in the Bru work right now. Clark & Mary have been working hard on translating the New Testament and are ready to do final checks on the following books; Romans, 1 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, 1&2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, Titus, Colossians & Revelations. A translation consultant arrives this week to start checking these books. Two other consultants will come later in the year to complete the checking process. This is what Mary writes about the process that will start on 7th May.

The time we've been working toward is now upon us. Thursday evening is the time that Greg arrives to begin our translation check. He is here till the 25th and we'll be working hard every day, only taking Sundays off.

Please pray for:

Safety in travel

Health for all involved

Stamina for some very tough hours of thinking, sitting, being in and out of different languages, blending personalities and cultures, working full time on translation but also needing to eat and live...

Weather - storms have been coming and some have gotten pretty crazy, so that could affect the electricity which we need

Clarity - that changes which are still needed will come to light



Our friends & co-workers,
Clark & Mary Aspinwall

The church's growth toward maturity depends greatly on the access it has to the Word of God and the ability of the believers to understand and apply it to their lives. Since the Bru are most comfortable using their own language, a mother tongue translation speaks more clearly to their hearts.

Other Activities

Back in Chiang Mai Clark and I held a three day People Group Assessment workshop for some colleagues who will be doing PGA in Southeast Asia and the Philippines. I spent considerable time with individuals, hearing how they've been doing and what has been going on in their lives and ministries. I also had meetings with friends from another mission, met with our former pastor and attended the wedding of a Thai friend we've known for some years. Then at the end of March I travelled to Indonesia and on to the Philippines for a number of church development workshops and leadership meetings, before returning to N Ireland again.



Bobby and other Family news

Back at home Bobby carried on with her normal work on PGA among other things. Over this past year her health has greatly improved and she is feeling a lot better. Because of this, she is keen to get back to the field and we will return together later in the summer. We are so thankful for these positive changes and look forward to focusing more on the work in Southeast Asia.



As for the rest of the family; Allan, Judith & the boys are keeping well and have their 'plates full' with ministry and family life. Neal & Naomi work with the church and Mission Africa respectively. Naomi has just returned from Kenya where she was making arrangements for future teams and short-term workers. Ryan & Ruth are kept busy with a 'very' active little 3 year old. Ruth enjoys running and has taken on some significant challenges.

Ruth doing a Slieve Donard run; where the Mountains of Mourne really do 'sweep down to the sea'.

Naomi and 'friend' in Kenya



It has always been on David and Alicia's hearts to be involved in discipleship, especially with youth and young families. Following the two months they spent working at a Christian camp in Canada last summer, they were invited to join the staff of Kawkawa Christian camp, British Columbia. While this seemed like the ideal opportunity it wasn't an easy decision to give up jobs, leave home and family and move so far away. They arrived in Canada about two weeks ago and are settling in quickly. Sarah and Joel love their new school and all the activities around the camp. David and Alicia have been busy setting up bank accounts, getting driver licences, registering for medical care and other official paperwork. They are in temporary accommodation and need to find a more suitable place to live. We miss them but rejoice that God has opened this door for them.

Please pray for:

The Bru translation check starting this week
Continuing developments in Southeast Asia
David & family starting new ministry in Canada
Our next few months here in N Ireland and...
Our return later in the summer

Give thanks too for:

God's faithfulness to provide for our needs
All who pray for us, many on a daily basis
The improvement in Bobby's health

Thank you for standing with us in the work we do, for your prayers, encouragement and support.

Norman & Bobby

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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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