

Thai Tidbits

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April 2010

Year 11, Issue 43

Political Chaos

Since March 12, Thailand's political scene is one of chaos between the government, military, police, and pro-government yellow shirts vs. the red shirts. The vast majority of red shirts come from the north and northeastern provinces, which comprise the majority of the country's population.

The current Prime Minister Abisith came into power by a military coup that ousted the then Prime Minister Thaksin who had been elected by the people. The fighting is between those who want a democratic government vs. a feudal government. The red shirts want a Prime Minister elected by the majority vote of the people and not a puppet of the military and Prem, the President of the King's Privy Council. The call is to dissolve Parliament and have new elections.

The present government of P.M. Abisith continues their stand that they will not be pressured into dissolving the Parliament but the government has severely underestimated the political situation. They must either dissolve the Parliament or get rid of the red shirts. Civil War is a real possibility.

The country is divided. Bangkok and the southern part of Thailand are mostly yellow shirts and pro-government while the North and Northeast are red shirts and represent the majority of the country's population. It is the elite vs. the poor. Christian brethren are on both sides. To avoid conflicts, we do not talk politics in the Church and ask that everyone keep their political views to themselves.

The Literature Program

Although there is no church or individual specifically supporting the Literature Program, Iz, a KKBI teacher, Mayta, my 56-year old nephew, and I have been working on translating books for our Thai brethren, the majority of whom do not speak or read English. In the past few years we have translated ten books:

1. "Seeking the Unseen God"
2. "Good But Not Good Enough"
3. "How to Manage Money"
4. "A Cappella Music"
5. "Men In Leadership"
6. "Direction of the Church"
7. "The Change Agents"
8. "The Fullness of Time"
9. "Where is the Piano?"
10. "Why Do We Believe In The Bible"

Six Baptisms at the Camp



** And his son's name is Samson **

April 11-15, we had a summer family camp in Chaiyaphum Province with about 300 brethren from twenty-five churches attending. The Lord blessed the Church with six new Christians. The topic of the camp was "On the Bank of Jordan" and most of the lessons were using the history of Israel and applying it to the present day church.

The camp time was hot, around 105F but the brethren and children really enjoy being together. Especially fun were the afternoon water games. Bratan, one of the KKBI teachers, had been greased and challenged the kids to pull him down.

What we need most at the camp are buildings with many rooms and bathrooms so the elderly can get to the bathroom easily at night. Right now we sleep in tents, which is difficult for the older campers.

The New Seventeenth Provincial Church

Lord's willing, this coming July we will begin the seventeenth provincial church in Srisaket located 270 kilometers southwest of Khon Kaen—next to the province of Surin. Srisaket is one of the border provinces to Cambodia. Please pray we can find two preachers willing to go there.

Trip to the U. S.

We are planning to visit churches in the U.S. during August since our daughter, MookDa, needs to be back August 31 when school begins for her again. We are beginning to make the traveling schedule and will contact you soon.