

Thai Tidbits

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Transferring Responsibility

In the last several years, most of the church's decisions rested upon the preachers, the Bible School teachers, and myself. However, since August we have asked the men of the congregation to meet once a month to take over the church administration and decision making. Men at Ban Kum Hai Church meet monthly to steer the church's direction. Pray that one day the Lord will select men from this group to be shepherds of His flock.

Their first major transferring of responsibility was when I transferred the land deeds to the foundation composed of a board of ten men and women. Taking care of the church needs is their second responsibility. Their next responsibility transfer will be taking over the Bible School another eight years from now. Please pray for the continuing maturity of the Thais.

Five Bible Classes during the Week

During January until June while KKBI is in session, the church meets to have Bible classes on Wednesday night at the church building so that the members and the students will have an opportunity to share the study together. At that time, I was teaching on "Life after Death". However, during July to December when the Bible school is out, the church decided to have five small Bible classes in the houses of members during weekday.

There are fourteen Christians in my 3-hour class, which I teach on Saturday afternoon. We are studying "Preparation for the Saints". In this class I ask each Christian to do one good deed for someone each week, then share with the class the good deed they have done

to glorify God. I also asked them to read one chapter each day from the book of Mark about the life of Christ, which we discuss, and the lesson we learned from His life. I also ask each person to read one of the sixteen tracts I have written and then to give that tract to their best friend or relative and invite that person to come to church. The members of the class are required to study our eight-lesson Bible Correspondence Course, which is also discussed in the class. So far three guests have come to church as a result of the Bible class.

October 16-21 Northeast Family Camp

We had planned our annual northeast family camp in October at the Boy Scout camp we rented last April. However, the camp manager informed us that our reservation has to be cancelled because his boss wants to use the camp for a seminar. The Lord provided a school across the street from the Boy Scout camp to hold our camp.

We are expecting 300 people campers. Even though the camp is for the northeastern churches, there will be some attending from Central and Northern Thailand and from Laos. We are always happy to have those brethren come for fellowship.

Financial Situation and the churches

The economy in the U.S. is really down and it affects the Lord's work in Thailand. Right now we are still actively supporting three congregations—Amnat Charoen, Surin, and Nong Rue District in Khon Kaen. The rest of twenty congregations are on their own. Some are doing really well while some are struggling.

The congregation in Phu Wiang District in Khon Kaen has the most members (38) meeting each Sunday. They are now conducting their Sunday service with no regular preacher. Their temporary preacher, brother Jaipet, is from Nong Rue District about thirty kilometers away. He travels to Phu Wiang to help on Sunday until one of their members, currently a student in Bible School, graduates in another year and a half. Then Phu Wiang will have their own regular preacher.