

The SEARLES in THAILAND

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2017-12-31

I am having to be in two places 10 hour driving time apart. Nakhon Nayok and Nong Khai need to see that they, the members, need to pick up responsibility! Nakhon Nayok Baptist has been very content to let Ajohn (teacher--me) do it. A few weeks ago there was an impromptu church meeting led by a few new members on what kind of outreach they wanted for a Christmas. This would never have happened without these four new additions. In Nong Khai there has been one new young man who is not a Christian bringing and encouraging his younger 4 brothers to attend and become involved. I am thankful. Christmas celebrations in both Nakhon Nayok and Nong Khai with 40 and 45 in attendance, was fun, effective and Thai planned, funded and run it. With a lot of hope I'm looking forward to see how God blesses their vision, prayers and work.

Testimony of putting God's word to practice. Did he sink?

It has been my experience that you do everything you can for as long as you can. Then the Lord blesses from a complete different direction. When it happens it's like the sun bursting out from behind a cloud. It is far more accurate to say it's like the "Son" bursting out from behind a cloud! What an exhilaration! But when one of these blessings messes up, it's heart breaking. It is as if I'm sinking with them. Bow borrowed \$35 from an 85 year old saint who gets about \$35 a month to live. Bow missed the appointed pay back and with no explanation he just didn't show up to church. For about 6 week! The undertone at church was palpable. Bow called me and told me that he had sinned against Roon; he was crying but wouldn't tell me what he did. Bow sells Ice cream for a living. Because of the 40 degree temperatures he couldn't give ice cream away and he could not pay Roon back.. When I went to visit him he was literally eating food that he had taken from a dog. He had lost face, his reputation lost both to Roon and the church and there was NO WAY he was going to go to Roon without the \$. I went through Prov. 28.13 "he that covereth his sin shall not prosper" about 50 times He came back 50 times that it was impossible without the money to pay her back. I prayed with him and to my amazement, before I left he told me he would go to her and he did. Bow denied himself and his culture to act on what the Bible said. In true Bible fashion Roon forgave him and I got to see real spiritual growth which made it all worth it. He took his eyes off the storm and on the Savior. When you have 10 years invested in someone, to see something as dramatic as this, it is a very big deal!

We had a visit this month from a very special lady.

Our newest Granddaughter, 2 month old Margaret. Of course her parents came too and the DeWalt family who invested their time to give Maureen a break. A very big thank you to the wonderful people who helped them come. It was a huge blessing!

The song goes.. The JOY of the Lord is my strength. This going on and on in my head...the joy of the Lord... and my heart aches! There is rejoicing in heaven when someone gets saved. I speak on behalf of Tim and myself. We are thankful for all of you who have stuck with us for over 37 years. We are working hard, doing what we can. Our health is good with a couple minor problems...but our hearts remain to serve God in this country, .to tell these people of God's love and gift of His Son. Thank you.