




THE BALLOU FAMILY

Lamphun, Thailand

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Dear Friends


The new year is well underway, and we feel strong momentum in ministry as we follow up with many guests from Christmas outreaches and pursue new goals for the new year. Later this year our family will be in the United States for just eight Sundays as we reconnect with our parents and families in Michigan and California. Our heart has always been to keep our focus on the ministry of church planting and training leaders here in Thailand, yet we are also eager to be an encouragement to our supporters. For the most part, we try to do this via regular letters and video updates. We are always happy to connect with supporting churches via zoom call, or to record a specific greeting or interview to bring an update to your church. We will be looking forward to sharing a ministry update and vision video at the end of this summer.


A few recent highlights in ministry:

- A faithful church member's younger brother has been coming with his wife and 2nd grade son. Christmas Day was the first time either the husband or wife had ever been in a church service, and since then they have continued to come weekly. Through several long conversations centered on the basic truth of the gospel, the wife has already trusted Christ, but the husband is still considering. My prayer is that his decision to follow Jesus will come very soon, and that they will be baptized together.
- After his baptism on Christmas Day, a young man named Bobby has shown tremendous growth in discipleship, and maturity beyond his years. Just this past week a friend he has been witnessing to also responded to the message of the gospel, and he will be baptized in March.


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- Our church made a trip 2.5 hours south of us to the city of Phrae, where Luka and Amie Chermue are making preparations for the soft opening of their new church next month. The spirit of our team of members was brilliant, and they did a phenomenal job of painting and cleaning. Conversations along the road indicated wonderful fellowship and spiritual growth.
- This month our church hit 100,000 baht in our land fund. Converted to US dollars, this would not seem like much, but minimum wage in our province is just 343 baht (around \$9.50) per day. Our prayer is for the faith of church members to grow through faithful giving towards a permanent meeting place that every member will value because of the sacrifices they have made towards buying land and building.
- In the middle of February our family had the privilege of helping with the seventh annual camp for MK's in our region. We were amazed to mark our very first year as the parents of a teenager attending camp! Matt Jones, a veteran missionary here in Thailand, has been leading this camp as part of a very helpful ministry to MK's and their parents. Over the past few years we have been so encouraged to witness the healthy transitions made by these missionary kids as they step into the next phase of life in their passport countries.

Current Prayer Requests:

- The Chermue family launching Phrae Baptist Church on March 3.
- Jay beginning a 4-part parenting class on February 28.
- Annual visa renewal is coming up. Please pray for smooth processing.

Thank you all for the faithful prayer and support that enables our ministry here to go forward. As always, we seek to steward the resources God has provided us through you to be faithful and effective in reaching Thai Buddhists, training leaders for Thai churches, and facilitating the launch of new churches throughout Thailand.

In Christ,

Jay and Alisa Ballou



A team of volunteers from our church drove 2.5 hours to help prepare for the early stages of a new church plant in Phrae, Thailand.

Our church has a number of connections with a large community of people from the nearest province in Burma. Please pray with us as we consider how our Thai church might also reach this people group in their own language and culture.



Every year the South East Asia MK camp has been a blessing to our family, even as we are seeking to bless these kids growing up on the mission field.