



Kath's Wedding

Dear Ministry Partner,

One of the joys of employing young people is the privilege of being part of their lives as they mature. Last week, Kath, a young lady Mary Kay has been mentoring for over six years and has worked with us the past two years, got married.



Mary Kay first met Kath while working with her in the library at Chiang Mai Theology Seminary. Kath is from the Mien tribe and a village of animistic spirit worshipers. While attending university a friend invited her to church where for the first time she did not feel the presence of evil spirits. This caused her to want to know more and it wasn't long afterwards she made a commitment of faith in Jesus. Since then we have watched her grow in wisdom and stature in the Lord and it has been our privilege to be part of her journey.

A couple of months ago we invited her to our house for a grilled chicken dinner. During our conversation Dwight asked her if she had ever killed a chicken. The answer he received was unexpected. She said she has killed many chickens. Before she was a believer every time she felt like she did something wrong, was sick, or something didn't go right she killed a chicken to appease the spirits. (Then they would eat the chicken.) As a believer she is grateful she doesn't have to kill chickens anymore!

It was great to see the ladies from our office help her with wedding plans. They helped with wedding announcements,



hair styles, make up and flowers. Mary Kay made hundreds of cookies and helped with the decorations. During this time Dwight was teaching the staff about God's grace.

She said grace became real to her as she saw it demonstrated by those helping her.

Kath actually had two wedding ceremonies. The first one was a Mien wedding held at her village where she wore the traditional Mien wedding outfit. This was a simple affair and the people from her village were invited.

The second one was a Christian wedding held at a church with Thai cultural elements included. One of the moving Thai elements is when the bride and groom kneel at the feet of the parents and honor and



thank their parents and ask for their blessing. (We think more cultures should include this as part of the wedding ceremony.)

Kath's husband, Phan, is from a Christian family, but her family is spirit worshipers. She has shared the gospel with her parents many times but unfortunately her Dad takes the stance that Christianity is a western religion and not for him. At the wedding he saw hundreds of Thai and Mien people worshiping Jesus, he heard a clear gospel message and we saw him shed a few tears.

As you pray for our ministry please include Kath's parents. Kath senses her mother would make a commitment of faith but Kath's father won't allow it. Pray that his eyes would be opened and that by believing on what Jesus did on the cross he no longer has to make sacrifices to appease the spirits. Jesus has already made the ultimate sacrifice.

Blessings,

Dwight & Mary Kay Martin



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Praises and Prayer requests

Praise

We rejoice that on January 29 we made the second payment on the property for the Thailand Resource Center. We are acutely aware this was only possible through God's people.

We started this project in October 2014 needing \$180,000. As of today we need \$54,700 more to pay for the property in full. Praise the Lord!

Thank you for your faithfulness in praying for us and listening to God. If God lays it on your heart to support this project please use one of the means listed below.

Prayer items

We are opening a branch office in Bangkok. We found out in January that our grant request to purchase another print-on-demand system was approved. At the same time God provided office space in Bangkok. It is in the same building where Dwight's parents ran their literature ministry over 35 years ago. Pray for us as we open this office—that every think will go smoothly.

We are grateful God has provided a someone to help open the office. Sanurak is an answer to prayer because he is passionate about church research. We have been looking for a Thai person to join Dwight in this role. We are hoping he will become the key researcher for the Thai church.

Pray for Mary Kay as she travels to the U. S. on March 16. She is going to help her parents and spend time with our adult children. These trips are busy for her because she still has to keep up with her work in Thailand via the internet.

On March 29-31 Dwight will be sharing the status of the Thai church with the 300 mission organizations that make up the Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand. Pray that the mission organizations will respond with a desire to start churches in the thousands of sub-districts where there are no churches

At this meeting we are giving every church planting organization access to the Harvest Church Database we developed. The database will help them manage their churches more efficiently. More than that, our hope is they will see what God is doing throughout the nation and work together in unity.



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