

New Relationships

“ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’
The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’ ”

Mark 12:30-31 (NLT)

Jesus commands us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. We do this only if we are in relationship with Him. The deeper our relationship grows, the more we love Him. The same is true with neighbors. Jesus commands us to love our neighbors but without being in relationship with them how can we love them?

So the Thai know we love them, we have been intentional about getting to know them. This is easier for Dwight since he can communicate in their language. He has developed many new friendships over the past months. It is difficult to know how a relationship is progressing until an experience demonstrates it.

Gahn, is a songteo (red taxi) driver Dwight has befriended since we have been here. They talk every Sunday. Last month Gahn was distressed over life's circumstances and told Dwight he wanted to die. Dwight was able to pray with him, reassure him and share Jesus with him. After praying, Gahn stated he was not sure why he shared what he did but was glad for it. Gahn is not a believer in Jesus, yet. Please pray he will be some day soon.

Another recent experience really touched us. Early last week, Dwight had a flat tire on his bike which delayed him meeting the biking team he rides with every evening, so this day he rode alone. When he arrived at the bottom of a steep climb the rest of the team was coming down the hill. Surprisingly, when they saw Dwight, four of the team members turned around and went back up the steep hill with him. They said they couldn't let their friend bike alone. When friends go the “extra mile,” you know your relationship is growing deeper.

Please pray that our relationships will continue to grow deeper and that our new friends will develop a relationship with Jesus. Here are some of the names of those we have come to know: Udom, Nope, Pbong, Thue, Op, Pbuey, Pla, Auom, Mea, Luang, Fon, Dea, Preda, Yaw, Pun, Taweesuk, Duangdee, and Tie. Please pray that we would love them as God loves them and that they too will come to love the Lord.

Have a Blessed Christmas as you celebrate the birth of Jesus,

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Business as Mission

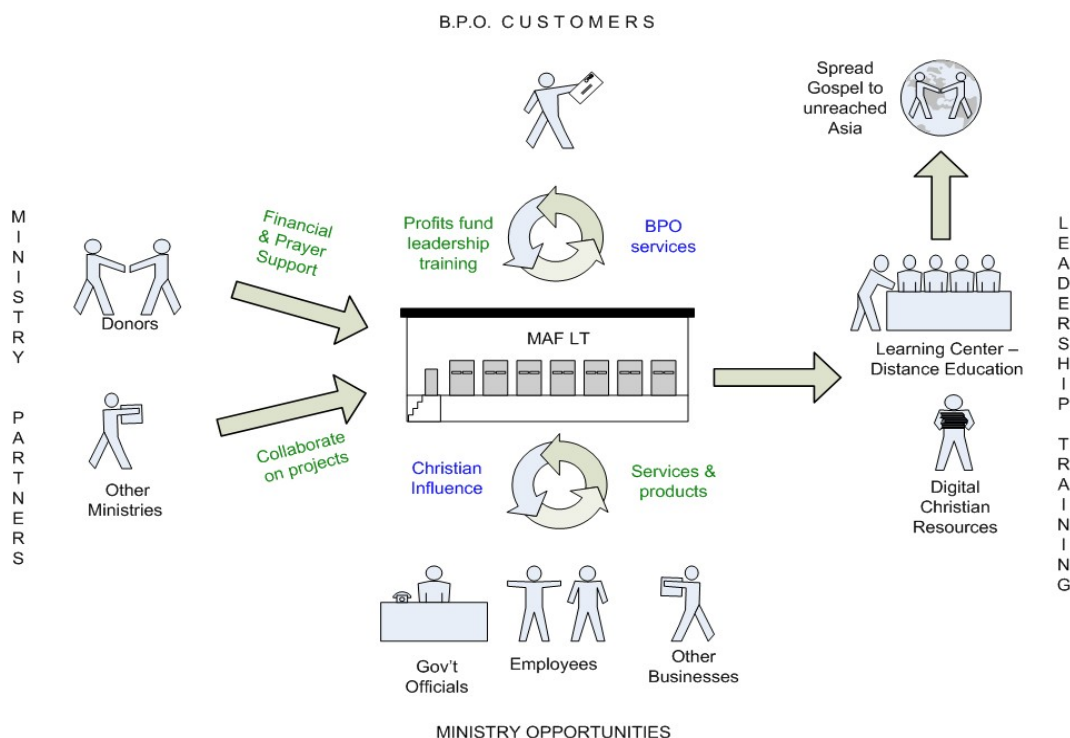
As we have shared in past newsletters, our purpose on the mission field with Mission Aviation Fellowship's Learning Technology (LT) is to partner with Christian ministries and national leaders to provide resources for Leadership Training. In researching and praying through the challenges we have to overcome in establishing LT in SE Asia, we sensed God's direction is to start a Kingdom business synergistic with LT. All profits would be used to subsidize leadership training,

The business would hire Thai workers to do image-based data entry services for US organizations. A Learning Technology training center requires PC's and an internet connection for students to attend classes, the same equipment needed for remote data-entry services. During the day the learning center can be used for business purposes and the evening for leadership training. Employees can be cross-trained to work on either data-entry or prepare digital resources for Christian leaders. The same facilities used for training Christians would also fund the ministry.

A business has these additional benefits:

1. Reproducible in neighboring countries where Christian ministries are not welcome. An LT training center could be opened as a business, but used to train national Christian leaders.
2. Provides a work environment where Christ is glorified and His values are modeled. In SE Asia, workers are often taken advantage of and corruption is common. This business would stand apart and be a witness for Christ.
3. Jobs for the disadvantaged. Data-entry work does not require extensive education. Workers that have limited job opportunities could work at an LT learning center. *(For example, it is estimated up to 20% of Thai girls between the ages of 11 and 17 are kidnapped and sold into prostitution. Girls rescued out of prostitution could do data-entry work.)*
4. Be a Christian testimony to business and government leaders. These leaders (who are the middle and upper classes, wealthy and educated) can influence the nation. Currently there is little Christian witness directed towards these leaders.
5. Provides us with a business visa which allows us to remain in Thailand and facilitates travel to neighboring countries.
6. Potential of making the ministry self-funded.

By faith we have moved ahead in opening the first learning center. We will receive our business license from the Thai government in November. We are praying for financing, office space and that God will direct us to those to employ.



We are trusting the Lord for \$30,000 to start this exciting new ministry. If you desire to support it with a one-time gift, please send it to MAF (address on front). Please state on the check the gift is for **4856-Asia LT Startup**

We have also been asked by some ministry partners if personal gifts can be sent to us. If this is your desire, please mail the gift to MAF stating "Personal gift for Dwight & Mary Kay Martin" Please note personal gifts are NOT tax-deductible.