



THE MARTIN CHRONICLES



God's Orchestration

"O Lord, God of our ancestors, you alone are the God who is in heaven. You are ruler of all the kingdoms of the earth. You are powerful and mighty; no one can stand against you! 2 Chronicles 20:6 (NLT)

It has amazed us to see God at work the past 18 months we have been in Thailand. We make our plans based upon what we sense God telling us, but over time we can see how God has used our plans and made them better. Here are a few examples.

Our Plans: We started PACTEC Asia thinking the "for-profit" side of the company had to be profitable before we would have money to develop and fund ministry opportunities.

God's Orchestration: Instead, ministry opportunities with the national Thai church started immediately. We discovered other ministries in Thailand and elsewhere also believe in what PACTEC Asia is doing and are willing to provide funding to keep it going.

Our Plans: To find employees, we contacted *New Life Center*, a ministry in Chiangmai that helps tribal women who are at risk for labor-exploitation.

God's Orchestration: What we didn't know was the tribal women they sent us would be Christians with college degrees, just the type of workers needed to help with the ministry. Before working for us, Bam, Nee and Toon had low-paying jobs working up to 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. They told me, never in their dreams did they think they would have a job like this. Since then, we have hired Da and Meow, two more Pa Kan Yaw tribal women.

Our Plans: We needed to hire one person who could speak some English to help with translation work and could communicate with Thai pastors throughout the country.

God's Orchestration: God provided Nicky through miraculous circumstances. God allowed us to meet her when an MAF co-worker's car was impounded by the police for unintentionally parking in the wrong place. Nicky was standing nearby and offered to help talk to the police and get the car back. We discovered she was a Christian and was looking for a job with a ministry. Once she started working for us, we found out she has relatives who are in leadership positions within the Thai church. This has helped us tremendously.

Another amazing "coincidence" was five years ago, when we were considering joining MAF as missionaries, I had spoken at Nicky's church in Thailand. I have a video clip of me speaking at her church, explaining the ministry I sensed God calling us to do — the very ministry we are doing today. Little did we know God was preparing workers for this ministry long before we arrived.

For a better understanding of the ministry, please view the short video MAF has created and placed on the Internet at <http://www.maf.org/video/lt-thailand>.



Back Row: Nicky, Da,
Front Row: Bam, Nee, Toon, Meow

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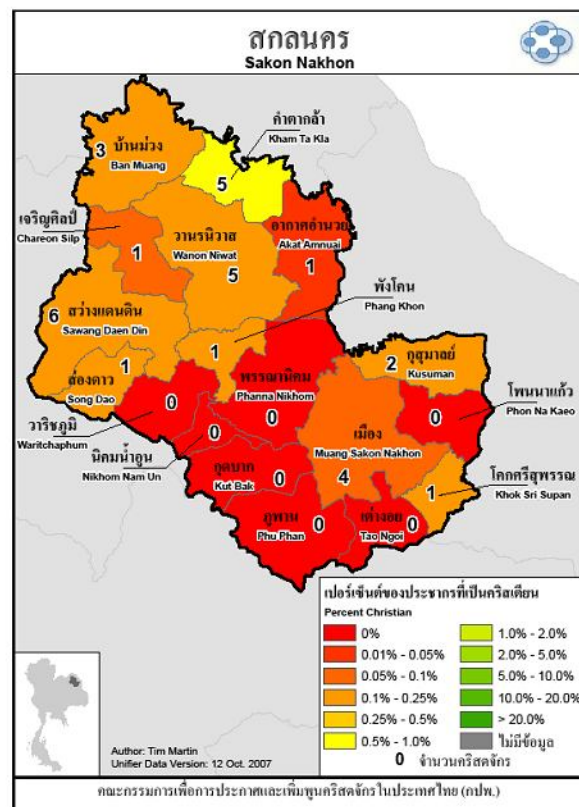
Mapping Project

As mentioned in our previous prayer letter, our son, Tim, is currently living in Thailand with us. He is learning Thai in order to complete graduation requirements for Samford University. He will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geographical Information Systems. Besides learning Thai, in the afternoons he is using his college skills to create maps for use by pastors and missionaries throughout Thailand.

This map is an example, showing the number of churches and percentage of the population that are Christians for every Amphur (similar to a county in the U.S.) in Sakon Nakhon province. Tim has created similar maps for all 76 Thai provinces. Thai pastors and leaders have greatly appreciated these maps because it helps them know where to plant new churches.

This is an ongoing project of gathering and updating Thai Church statistics. From this data we will regularly publish reports and maps. If you look at this map closely you can see just how few Christians there are in Thailand. In most Amphurs, there are no Christians.

Please pray for Tim as he decides what he should do in the future. He is considering staying in Thailand, as a missionary, after completing his language courses. To stay and continue this vital work he would need to raise support in the amount of \$1,000 a month. Please let us know if you are interested in being an integral part of helping grow the Christian Church in Thailand by supporting Tim in this effort.



Family Update

Prayer Requests:

- Tim as he makes plans for the future
- Crystal at college in Birmingham
- Effective witness to our Buddhist friends
- Complete projects in a timely manner
- Safety for Crystal as she travels to Thailand for Christmas

Praises:

- Favor we have received from Thai church leaders
- For health and safety as we travel within the country



Visiting Nee's family

On a personal note - besides working at the office every day, we have been able to take a few excursions to the mountains. A few weeks ago we visited the families of three of our employees at their village, Nong Jet Nuey, high up in the mountains. We enjoyed meals with them, including a chicken head and feet. They are a very generous people, and we brought back pumpkins, rice and avocados.

The mother of one of the girls gave me a tribal shirt for "married" women. We were able to attend their church and enjoyed their tribal worship. These girls have become like part of our family (we are old enough to be their parents). We are hoping to visit the other girls' homes in the future.

Dwight, Tim and I spent Thanksgiving with another missionary family and Thai friends. Their parents bought the turkeys so we could all have some to take home with us (a 10lb turkey costs \$30).

We are looking forward to Christmas and having Crystal visiting us for a few days. Unfortunately, she won't be able to stay long because of school and work obligations, but it will be good to see her.

We appreciate your support and prayers as we would not be able to serve the Lord here in SE Asia without you. May you have a blessed Christmas with your families.

- Mary Kay -

Many have asked how to send us cards, letters, packages, and/or monetary gifts at Christmas. Cards and letters can be sent directly to us, but allow several weeks for delivery. Contact us before sending packages as these shipments can be affected by Customs Regulations. Personal monetary gifts should be sent through the MAF Headquarters office. Please make sure they are clearly marked as personal gifts and they will be passed on to us. Unlike gifts toward our ministry support, these personal gifts are not tax-deductible.