

THE MARTIN CHRONICLES



Friendships

"Just think of how our lives will expand and deepen by means of his resurrection life! Now that we have actually received this amazing friendship with God, we are no longer content to simply say it in plodding prose. We sing and shout our praises to God through Jesus, the Messiah!"

Romans 5:10-11 (MSG)

Thai Christians will tell you the best way of introducing Thais to Jesus is by developing relationships with them first. Once you have established a friendship they are much more receptive to the Gospel. During the past two years we have had the privilege of making dozens of Thai friends. Most of them are Buddhist, but a few are Christians. In this prayer letter we would like to introduce you to four of them. After you read their short biography please take a moment to pray for them.



Nope

Nope is 32 years old and is a painter. His favorite form is impressionistic, but he can do many other styles. He usually sells his paintings to tourists, but he sometimes is hired to help repaint a Buddhist temple or a resort. He is a devout Buddhist, but very open to the Gospel.

Over the past year Dwight has had several opportunities to share Jesus with him. In our discussions we have talked about many subjects, including creation, demons, sin, and forgiveness. He is very interested in Christian beliefs and often brings up Christian topics when we are together.

Please pray that God would continue to work in his heart and one day soon he will have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.



Kru Pong

Pong is a teacher, therefore you refer to him with the word "Kru" or "teacher" in front of his name. He is the headmaster of a public school consisting of grades kindergarten through the ninth grade. Kru Pong is 55 years old and is one of Dwight's closest friends.

They frequently go biking or motorcycling together.

Kru Pong is one of the few Christian friends we have, but is married to a Buddhist wife. Even though he is a second generation Christian and very educated, his knowledge of the Bible is minimal. We believe this is partly due to the church he has attended his whole life. It is a small church where the teaching of God's Word is very elementary. As a result, church members are not challenged to grow in their relationship with the Lord.

Please pray that through his friendship, Dwight can encourage and help Kru Pong grow in his knowledge of the Lord.



Luang Moon

Moon is over 60 years old, so Thai's refer to him as Luang or "uncle" Moon. He doesn't know his exact age, but says he is over seventy. Luang Moon is one of Dwight's biking buddies and they have enjoyed racing each other.

Unfortunately, a few months ago he had a stroke caused by an unusual event. When he was young he was shot by a small caliber bullet that lodged in his neck. Thais are very superstitious and believe if you are shot you don't remove the bullet because it will protect you from harm later on. It was this same bullet that dislodged 50 years later causing the stroke. What he believed was protecting him actually harmed him.

I don't get to see Luang Moon much anymore because he is handicapped from the stroke. But pray we would have an opportunity to share the Gospel with him.

Note: Their names are short because Thais generally use a nickname rather than their real name to refer to themselves. Their real names typically are quite long and difficult to remember.

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**Kru Fon**

Fon has been our Thai teacher since we arrived. She has taught Dwight how to read and write Thai and is currently helping Mary Kay learn how to speak Thai better. She is 30 years old and has been a Christian for three years.

Right after we met her we learned her husband had just left for the United States to attend university. Since then her husband has more or less abandoned her. He now lives in New York City with no plans on returning. Initially she was very bitter towards him and full of anger because he did this to her. But, over the past two years we have encouraged her and prayed with her. We have seen God take that bitterness and turn it into a love for the Lord.

All her family members are Buddhist and for a long time they thought she was crazy to be a Christian. But over time there has been a softening from her family members towards her. They have seen a tremendous change in her life. She said she used to get angry and upset about things very easily. Now she has a deep hunger for the Lord and trusts Him for everything. You can see Jesus in her very easily because she just shines.

Currently she and Mary Kay are leading a cell group for Thai ladies at our house. She has been a big encouragement to the other ladies when they hear about the difficulties in her life and how God has been with her throughout her journey.

Fon desperately desires for her parents, sister, and husband to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. She knows how precious and meaningful it is for her and desires the same for them. Please pray for Fon and her family.

Cell Group

Prayer Requests:

- Strength and encouragement—We sense very strongly Satan doesn't like the work we are doing
- That our house in Alabama would sell soon—it has become a financial burden
- Tim's future plans.
- Crystal's work load and school load

Praises:

- All the technical tasks for the digital library are completed
- Everyone in our family has remained healthy and safe

Life for me has been very busy these last few months. In addition to being the bookkeeper at the office I have started a cell group at the house to encourage young ladies. We meet Wednesday evening. Either we cook or do a craft and have a worship time. With the help of Fon, we share some encouragement with the girls. I have had up to seven young ladies in the kitchen at one time, teaching them how to make apple pie, pizza, brownies, etc. It is quite a challenge and the kitchen gets very hot during this time of year. If you have any ideas for crafts, please send me an e-mail. My Thai teacher, Fon, thought this time might also help me with language skills.

Being with all these girls makes me miss my own girl. Please continue to pray for our family as the separation is difficult. Please pray that our house would sell in a 'down' market. We really need to get Crystal out from the responsibility of it all. Thank you for your prayers and concern.

- Mary Kay -

Thank You!

Thank you for the part you play in allowing us to be in Thailand. We could not be in Southeast Asia doing what God has called us to without the encouragement and blessing you provide through prayer and financial support