



DWIGHT AND MARY KAY MARTIN SERVING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

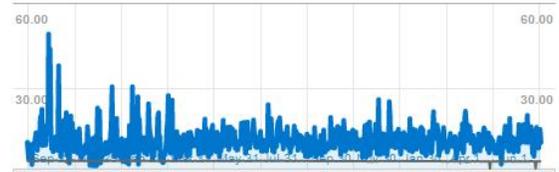
The Martin Chronicles

Biblionics (Electronic Bible Resources)

We have mentioned in prior prayer letters about the digital library we brought online in 2008 for Thai Christians and pastors so they can have easy access to thousands of Christian resources. Materials Thai Christians did not have easy access to. Its been thrilling to see how this library has grown and how it is being used by Thais not only in Thailand but all around the world. Over 20,000 users from over 62 nations have accessed the <http://thaicrc.com> website.

What encourages us is seeing how this library is being used. 50% percent of the users of this website come back again compared to only 36% for comparable websites. We also know users stay on this site 187% longer compared to comparable digital library sites

Finally, users view over 10 pages per visit compared to less than three pages per visit for benchmark websites (see following graph), We know people are making good use of this library.



10.41 Pages/Visit
Benchmark: 2.84 (+267.20%)

We have also heard many encouraging comments from Thai pastors around the country. One pastor friend, Ajan Han, stated we have made life for the Thai pastor much easier. They don't have to work so hard in preparing their sermons. We trust by giving them these resources they grow deeper in their relation with God and, in turn, encourage their church members to grow deeper in Christ.

We are now creating digital libraries for other languages. This month Dwight is traveling to Vietnam to help create a digital library for this nation. Our desire is to make digital libraries for dozens of minority languages groups.

We have created <http://biblionics.com> to promote this vision. Please visit this website to learn more about Biblionics.

Meaw

In this prayer letter we would like to introduce you Meaw (*pronounced like the sound a cat makes*), our office secretary. She has worked with us for over three years and is a great help, especially when we interact with government offices. We really appreciate her sweet Christian spirit and her willingness to do whatever we ask.



Meaw with her mother

She is from the Karen tribe. Tribal people think they are disadvantaged because of where they were born. In fact, Thai's often look down on them. But we think she is amazing and more ca-

pable then she even realizes. For example, compared to most people in the U.S. who speak only one language, Meaw speaks three languages; Karen, Thai and Northern Thai. Not only that, she can type in Thai and English! Pretty amazing for someone “born on a mountain”

Meaw is from a broken home. Her father is a policeman who divorced her mother when she was a young girl. Though she talks to her father, she doesn't see him much because he lives in Southern Thailand.

In 2008 we had the privilege of visiting her mom in her village and attending their church. It sits in a beautiful valley surrounded by rice fields and mountains. Please pray for Meaw, that God would lead and guide her as she desires to follow in His Steps.

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Are Thai's truly Buddhists?

The average Thai would answer, "To be Thai is to be Buddhist." But what has surprised many missionaries is that Thai Buddhism is actually a syncretistic mix of animism, Buddhism and other religions. While the external manifestations of Buddhism are highly visible around the country (temples, monks walking in the morning, celebration of holy days), in reality, much of the actual practices follow animistic tradition.

For the average Thai, Buddhism and its practices deal primarily with the questions of death and the hereafter. Animistic practices address the issues of the here and now. The result is what is called "Folk Buddhism". If Buddha could come back and discover what his followers truly believe he would be appalled because it is contradictory to his teachings.



One of millions of spirit houses that dot the country

Ironically, our Buddhist Thai friends understand this, yet it doesn't bother them. They know Buddha taught there are no spirits or demons, but they also know from experience they do exist and that is what controls their lives. They live in daily fear of them and continually try to appease them.

For those in the west considering Buddhism as the answer to life's questions, what they haven't yet realized is they will never find it in Buddhism. As much as Buddha tried to deny the reality of the

spiritual realm, it does exist! And, as Thai people have found out, this void will get filled one way or another.

Our prayer for those both in the west and in Thailand is that they will find life's questions answered by the God of the Bible rather than from the demons of hell.

Prayer Requests

- Crystal as she takes her CPA exams this summer.
- Tim as he takes on a new position at work.
- We have been very busy lately and there is so much that can be done. We need to discern what the important projects are and what we can wait.

Praises

- For the faithful support of our ministry partners. Thank you!
- For the wonderful time of fellowship and teaching at the Siam Field Forum last week. It was refreshing.
- For close relationships with other missionary friends that encourage us and help us through the rough times.

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