



She Lost Everything to Gain Everything

“As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.”

Ecclesiastes 11:5 (NIV)



Dwight biking with some of his new Thai friends

Last month Mary Kay had the opportunity to pray with a lady who was in great distress. This lady had been a “mia noy”, little wife, (In English we would call her a mistress) to a married man for over seven years. During this time she trusted this man as her own husband. Even though he was married to another woman, she secretly hoped that he would leave his wife and love her only. She trusted him so much that she put all the extra money she made into a bank account that was in his name only. Every month for seven years, she put her extra money into this bank account until it reached 200,000 Baht (Approx \$5,500). This is a fortune to her and most Thai people.

One day she discovered all the money in this bank account was gone. She got so mad when she found this out that she poured gasoline around her husband's house and tried to burn it down. Right after this happened, Mary Kay had an opportunity to pray with her, as she was very frightened. The police had just contacted her to turn herself in. If not, they would find her and put her in jail. Even though Mary Kay cannot speak Thai (at least not yet) she prayed in English asking the Lord that the whole truth would come out and that God would show her mercy.

It is amazing to see how God worked. As it turned out, her “husband” told her they were even. He was not going to have the police put her in jail. He admitted he had taken all her money, but he would use it to rebuild the part of the house she burned down.

The next week after this had happened she attended a 'Thai ladies' Bible Study. During the Bible Study, the Lord worked in her heart and she became a new believer in Jesus Christ. I know the Lord used this incident to bring her to Himself. **Even though she lost everything she had in this world, she gained everything in the life to come.** Today she says she is so grateful this all happened because she is a new person. She has no regrets about losing the money and she has peace in her heart like she never had before. God is truly merciful.

Praise the Lord!

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Settling Down In Thailand

Thank you so much for your prayers during this time of transition and getting settled in Thailand. Leaving the kids in the States was the hardest thing we have had to do. We are finally feeling settled. We were able to rent a house close to our co-workers. It was difficult to find a place with a kitchen of any kind as that doesn't seem to be a priority for houses in Thailand. God has provided and even though we had to go through some difficulties, like replacing kitchen cabinets because of mold and termites, things are coming together. It is amazing how the things that seemed so overwhelming in the beginning have been solved. Even our Internet seems to be a little faster and we haven't lost power in a while.



Language school continues to be a challenge for me. The other day I asked my teacher to slow down a bit because I was getting too many vocabulary words to remember. She pointed to her head and asked me if it was full (she speaks very little English). That is one way to put it! I am looking forward to the time when I can actually be doing something to help others. I am not good at sitting and studying.

Dwight has also been attending classes and has learned to read and write Thai. He was able to jump right into Module 4. His teacher has really enjoyed teaching him. She told him that if she closes her eyes, she thinks she is speaking with a Thai person. He has started to read the Thai New Testament his mother translated over 30 years ago. That has been a surreal experience for him as he remembers all her hard work in translating it. This Bible version is

the most popular study Bible in Thailand, and every time Dwight sees someone using it, it gives him a sense of joy, knowing where it came from. I am so thankful God refreshed his memory with the language as it has been helpful in all we have had to do.

Now that we are settled, Dwight will be working full-time on ministry projects. He has been having meetings in-between language school and setting up the household. In October, he will attend a conference in Bangkok, regarding work in Vietnam. Please pray that God will lead and guide as to which projects to undertake. In the meantime he is working on ways to establish the ministry in SE Asia. He is looking to start a business in Thailand. The reason for this is the term "missionary" is not accepted in many SE Asian countries. If he travels as a businessman, there won't be a problem. Also, getting a Thai work permit is easier as a businessman.

Praise

- ◆ Found a house and vehicle
- ◆ Housing issues have been solved
- ◆ We have met new friends
- ◆ Found a church to attend
- ◆ Things are becoming familiar and not so foreign
- ◆ Kids are doing well

Prayer Requests

- ◆ Dwight's meetings in Bangkok
- ◆ Lord's leading on decisions regarding ministry
- ◆ MK's language study
- ◆ Decision for MK as to where to minister with limited Thai language
- ◆ Safety as we drive

The kids have adjusted well. Tim had a full-time internship this summer, which has turned into a part-time job for the school year. Crystal is settled in at Baylor after working this summer. She is submerged in the music program and is doing great. We are thankful for Internet communications and being able to call them for free using SKYPE. I don't know how earlier missionaries were able to be separated from family without the ability to communicate as we do nowadays.

It is amazing (really we shouldn't be amazed because God has our best interests in mind) how God has answered so many prayers. This month He provided a roommate for Tim, which helps us financially by allowing us to keep our house in the US. I know many of you have been praying with us about this for a long time.

Driving a car is more difficult in Thailand. I still have not been able to drive very far. I can go to school and back and can drive to the mall. My biggest fear is that I won't see a motorcycle as they come at you from all directions. (A one-way street doesn't prevent people from driving the wrong way!) We have seen three motorcycle accidents since we have been here and a couple of them were fatal. It is so sad; the risks people take and most of them don't wear a helmet. The hardest one for me to accept is seeing small babies standing on the motorcycle between their parents, with nothing to protect them.

It's also hard to believe it has been one year since Dwight's heart surgery. One of the things he does for exercise is ride his bike in the Thai countryside. (Up to 30 miles a day on weekends!) He has connected up with a group of Thai men and they ride together during the evenings. It gives him an opportunity to develop a relationship with them and also increase his Thai vocabulary.

Please continue to pray for us. We will send you another prayer letter in December.