



Zeekisms

October 18, 2008

As we face a world with uncertainties, not knowing what the future holds, it is always comforting to know that there is a God and that as believers in Christ we have been adopted into His family. Even though the world is going through a very difficult time now, we have a hope and a future to look forward to. This does not mean that we simply ignore what is going on around us, but it should compel us to look towards what is most important in life.

When is a church a church?



Last month we visited a fellowship of Hmong believers who told us that across the valley, about a mile away, there was a village with no Gospel witness. One begins to wonder why this group of about 30 believers never went and shared the Gospel. Although we didn't ask, we talked with our friends who invited us. We started to sense that they didn't think that they were truly a church. Why? Because they didn't have a pastor.

When we think of the church, most of us picture a building. But the Bible says in Ephesians 1:22-23 that believers are the church. "And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him [Jesus] as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." (NASB) Many think that the church is not a church unless it has a pastor. But Ephesians 1:22-23 also states that only Christ is head of the church.



The Apostle Paul was able to clearly communicate the Gospel plus teach the basic truths of God's Word and how to study the Bible. He gave churches everything they needed in order to continue in the faith. They didn't need Biblical educational degrees. It is very interesting that Paul would go to a city and establish churches, but would leave before establishing any leaders. He passed that job on to Timothy

and Titus. Why would he do this? To our way of thinking, it was quite a foolish thing to do. Though some of the churches fell back to their previous ways of life (for example, the Corinthian church), Paul gave them all the necessary tools so that they could become independent and not have to rely on outside support and oversight. When Paul felt that it was time to move on he simply did so. His average stay in most cities where he planted a church was under two years. This is mostly unheard of today.

Remember that some of the cities he visited didn't know what a Bible was, let alone a Christian. They didn't have a clue as to what sin really was and their culture was virtually absent of any Godly influence.

We don't know how long it will take to plant churches among the Hmong in Thailand. But our goal is to establish new churches as quickly and as wisely as possible. We simply desire to plant churches in such a way as to make them self-reliant, firmly placed in the foundation of the Word of God, with Christ as the Head, not man.

Continued in next newsletter...



Pictures are from our vacation to the ancient capital, Ayutthaya, and the beach, Hua Hin.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for missionaries to continue to have an impact for Christ and that the Gospel will continue to go out into the world. Often missionary giving is the first item to be cut on a budget when financial hardship hits.

As you can see, the new addition to our family will be coming in December. Pray that all goes well. We have an excellent doctor and a hospital with up to date medical facilities.

Pray for other Hmong believers to partner with us in this ministry.

Pray for our language studies. Thai is our first priority now, but as we continue to talk to other missionaries and to the Hmong, we believe that we will be much more effective in bringing the Gospel to them if we learn their language.



Mike and Sonja Zeek

mzeek@fim.org

www.amongthehmong.com

Skype: mike.zeek

Fellowship International Mission

www.fim.org