

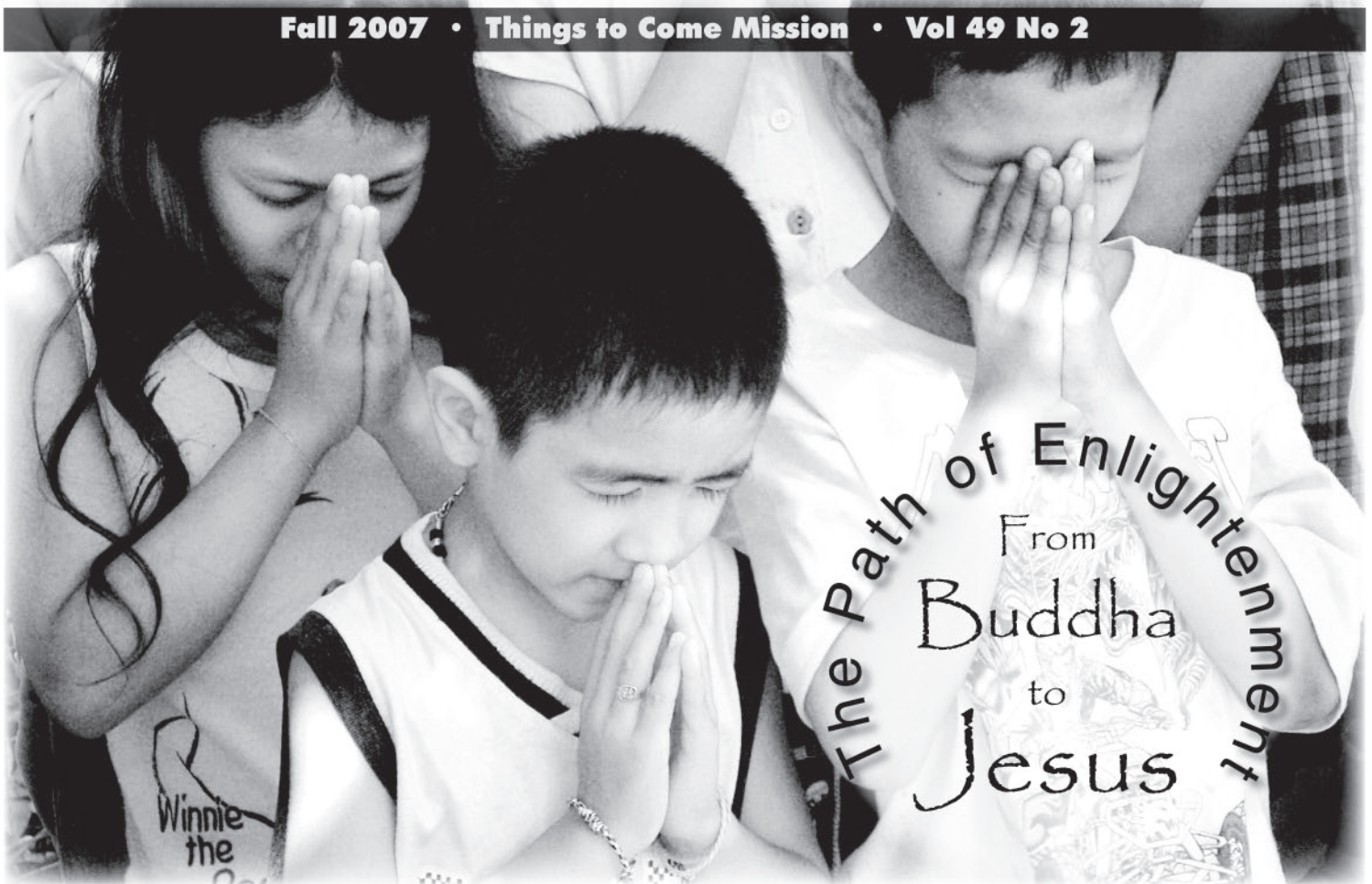
INTERNATIONAL

THINGS TO COME MISSION

Harvest

Preparing people for Jesus Christ's return through the methods of Apostle Paul

Fall 2007 • Things to Come Mission • Vol 49 No 2



The Path of Enlightenment
From Buddha to Jesus

by Ariel & Faith Mahilum

i
n
s
i
d
e

- 2 Director's Perspective
- 3 Insights
- 4 50th Anniversary
- 4 Following On
- 5 Africa Safari 2007
- 6 A Peek Into the Middle Kingdom
- 7 Why Thailand?

Buddhism has a following of more than 350 million people—6% of the world's population, and 99% of Buddhists live in Asia. It is spreading and gaining popularity, a great challenge for believers to pray, mobilize, send and support the endeavors for the gospel to penetrate Buddhist countries. The Lord has opened Buddhist countries like Cambodia and Thailand for the gospel, and every believer of Jesus Christ can make a difference in these countries.

Buddhism is a religion of good works and human effort with its central focus on man's desire for enlightenment, which makes one into a Buddha or enlightened one (although

there is no other enlightened man except the Buddha). The core of Buddhism is to be set free from desire so that the cycle of birth, death and rebirth will end and one enters into a mindless bliss called "Nirvana". Today Buddhism has penetrated almost all human disciplines, even medical science and others have adapted Buddhist principles and practices. Buddhist meditation is taught in schools and day-care centers all over the globe. Hollywood is not spared. The god of this world has blinded the minds of people so they cannot understand the gospel and come to the saving truth in the Lord Jesus Christ.

See **Enlightenment**, Page 5



The Director's Perspective

The God Who is Alive

A woman with a bright smile was holding out a bouquet of fresh flowers towards me. Behind her towered multiple-headed gold and green dragons whose snake-like bodies bordered hundreds of steps disappearing into the sky. Dozens of pilgrims slowly but expectantly climbed towards their spiritual encounter. I looked back at the woman as a cool mountain breeze suddenly rushed through the trees surrounding us. She was still smiling—and she was most insistent that I accept her bouquet—and, yes, it was free.

Doi Suthep

I was at Doi Suthep, one of Buddhism's most revered temples, located in northern Thailand near the border of Myanmar. Veteran missionary Genesis Maraats and missionary candidate Nathan Killion were traveling with me on a survey of Thailand.

Located in the strategic 10/40 Window, this country is one of the least reached by the gospel of Jesus Christ. Of 65 million people, only 0.75% are Christian. Doi Suthep is one of thousands of colorfully decorated temples throughout Thailand.

The Thai people are deeply religious—constantly concerned about the spirits of departed ancestors. Prayers are said and alms are given to monks and in temples so as to improve not only one's own life but also that of the ancestors. Although the

Ben Anderson is Executive Director of Things to Come Mission and Editor of International Harvest. He and his wife Joyce served as missionaries in Kenya for 18 years. His family lives in Indianapolis where the TCM headquarters is located.

official religion is called Buddhism, it is truly a mixture of Buddhism, Hinduism, animism, spiritism, ancestor worship and, yes, even some Christian concepts such as hell, heaven and the devil. This is a dynamic belief system with nearly as many forms as there are adherents.



Herein lies one of the great difficulties of reaching the Thai Buddhist. They are *inclusive* in their beliefs. Even though I was obviously not a Buddhist—I was even wearing a small cross—this woman was happy to include me in the temple rituals. In contrast, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Yes, he also said, "Love your enemies;" but, for that enemy to be saved he will eventually have to trust in Jesus. This makes the Christian belief system *exclusive*. How does one preach an exclusive gospel to an inclusive people?

Jesus is the Answer!

Much of Thai Buddhism involves the worship of inanimate objects, primarily images of Buddha. I watched hundreds of people light candles and bow to the floor in front of every conceivable shape, color and size of Buddha. Something inside me kept wanting to scream, "It is dead! It was crafted and painted right here in this city by humans. Lift up your eyes and look at the Living God, the Creator of heaven and earth!" As a Grace believer who spends much time in Thailand on business told us, "The Thai people do not need another dead Savior. We must emphasize that Jesus is alive and powerful." As Paul so confidently stated, "I am not ashamed,

because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day" (2 Tim 1:12). The object of our faith is a living Person. That is why Christ's resurrection is so strongly emphasized in the New Testament. Our confidence is in Him who is alive and not in dead objects.

GGF Family Bible Conference

The Grace Gospel Fellowship gave me an excellent opportunity to share my vision for reflecting the image of Christ to the world at the Family Bible Conference in Anaheim, California in July. My sermon points were 1) Bear the Name Gladly, 2) Live the Word Persuasively and 3) Seek the Lost Passionately. The theme of *Reflecting the Image of Christ* is greatly needed in our country which is filled with so many conflicting images. Let us be bold in representing our Beloved Savior.

Nathan & Jessica Killion

A great joy of mine was to have Nathan & Jessica along on the Africa Safari 2007. This is a couple whom I have known for nearly a decade. They absolutely have both the heart and the call for the mission field. Please hold them up in prayer as they begin deputation in January 2008. They and the Maraats will form a team to reach out with the gospel of grace in Thailand.

The move of TCM into Buddhist nations gives me great joy. Please join with me in prayer for the Mahilums, Myra, Maraats and Killions as they take up this challenge. Pray for more harvesters to go out into the southeast Asian fields to enlighten the "Enlightened Ones" about the Living Savior Jesus Christ!

So what did I say to the woman with the bright smile? I had to politely but firmly refuse her gift. You see, she wanted me to carry the bouquet to the top of the steps and worship one of the many Buddhas there. I tried to explain that I worshiped only the Living Jesus; but, she did not understand. As I left her with a confused expression, I wondered if she would ever meet a Christian again. Who will go and learn the Thai language and share the gospel with a smiling woman at Doi Suthep? ☀

Every morning the Buddhist monk carries his big bowl-container covered with a piece of cloth to where the people are. He walks barefoot. The people put food into the big bowl and the Buddhist monk offers prayers and blessings to the person who gives. The person believes he may get good luck during that day or in the course of time.

Insights

by Genesis Maraath

Our recent two week survey to Thailand opened up several valuable insights on how we can reach out to the Thai people with the gospel of Christ.

1. Fluency in the Thai language. Reaching the people of Thailand will require learning and speaking the Thai language well. We cannot expect to reach out to the Thai without learning their language first since 99.5 % of the Thai we met during our survey trip did not speak English. We were frustrated many times because we could not communicate with the people.

2. Friendship Evangelism approach. Because the Thai are friendly and polite, we believe "friendship evangelism" is essential to reach out to the people. Establishing an appealing relationship with the Thai can win their confidence and greatly help them to be won to Christ.

3. Begin with the Creation story. None of the Thai we met and talked with had any idea of who Jesus is or about the Christian Holy Bible. Sharing the gospel with a person who has no biblical knowledge of Creation is hard. Creation introduces to mankind that the universe is God-created and this God who created the universe is living and powerful.

Thai people are very much taken by idol worship. We saw shrines almost everywhere in addition to many gorgeous Buddhist temples around the country of Thailand. If the Thai will understand the first three chapters of the book of Genesis, we have a good chance to win them to Christ. The Creation story can prepare them to understand the Person and the Cross work of Jesus Christ.

4. Prayer. Public prayers are common on the roads and in the byways. For an ordinary Thai the prayer of a Buddhist monk is revered and highly respected. Public prayers mean a lot to them and the Thai are not ashamed to show their faith and rituals to the world. We believe person-to-person or one-on-one prayer will show the Thai that we Christians do care about them.

Genesis Maraath discusses Thai Buddhism at the 300-meter Baiyoke Sky Hotel in Bangkok. In May 2008, Genesis, his wife Verna and children Andrea and Josiah will move to Thailand and begin intensive language training. The Maraaths have previously served in Kenya for 15 years where they planted two urban churches and trained several men and women for the ministry. Of his ministry in Thailand, Genesis has stated, "I am ready to give the rest of my life to sharing the love of Christ with the Thai people, even if it means becoming a Thai citizen."



5. Respecting Thai culture. To display anger in public is a total disgrace. Thai's think that a person who becomes angry publicly is without self-control and to do so is against the teaching of Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. Another practice is taking off shoes or slippers before entering into a temple or house. Any Christian worker who desires to succeed in Thailand must show respect to Thai culture so they can be won to the Savior.

6. Family-Oriented Approach. The Thai are very strong on Family. Family forms the nucleus in Thailand. Parents exercise control over their children, and children place a lot of respect toward their parents. One of the hardships younger generation Christians are facing is the strong opposition from their parents. They are forced to perform Buddhist rituals, and if they don't, they are thought to be disrespectful to their parents. Any Christian worker who desires to appeal to Thai people must devise a plan of reaching out to the whole family, starting from the parents down to the children. ✨

"We are sure as we live in and assimilate ourselves to the Thai language and culture, we will find even more ways of reaching out in Thailand. May we ask you to join us in prayers to God that God will give us a good harvest of many influential souls in Thailand. May the message of the Lord spread rapidly and be honored in the country of Thailand!"

Congratulations!

Things to Come Mission churches and ministries in the Philippines

50 Years of Fishing for Men



TCM International

**THINGS
TO COME
MISSION**



Brazil • Cambodia • China • England • Indonesia • Kenya
Philippines • South Africa • Thailand • Uganda • United States

PREPARING PEOPLE FOR CHRIST'S RETURN THROUGH THE METHODS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL



50th Anniversary Celebration

*COME & Celebrate the 50th
year of Things to Come
Mission in the Philippines!*

Our Filipino brethren and Things to Come Mission USA are planning to celebrate April 22-26, 2008 in Ozamis City, where the ministry began in 1958. A number of friends from the USA, overseas missionaries, and TCM national representatives from other countries will attend.

Right now we are compiling a list of those who plan to travel with us from the USA to the Philippines. We will begin checking airline fares by January. We estimate the cost to be \$1500-\$1800. If you are interested, let Joe Watkins know at the TCM office so we can add your name to the list.

The plan is to leave April 19 or 20. The length of stay depends on whether you wish to add some sightseeing after the Anniversary Conference or return immediately. Our brethren in the Philippines are working on the sightseeing tour.

We welcome you!

FOLLOWING ON

■ LUZ GADDI reports how much children need Sunday School in Uganda: "Children are left outside to play while youth and adults are being preached to inside." Luz finished a SS Training Seminar in Kampala and asks prayer to reach out for Children's Ministry as well as continued work with "The Highway of Life" correspondence courses which she is correcting.

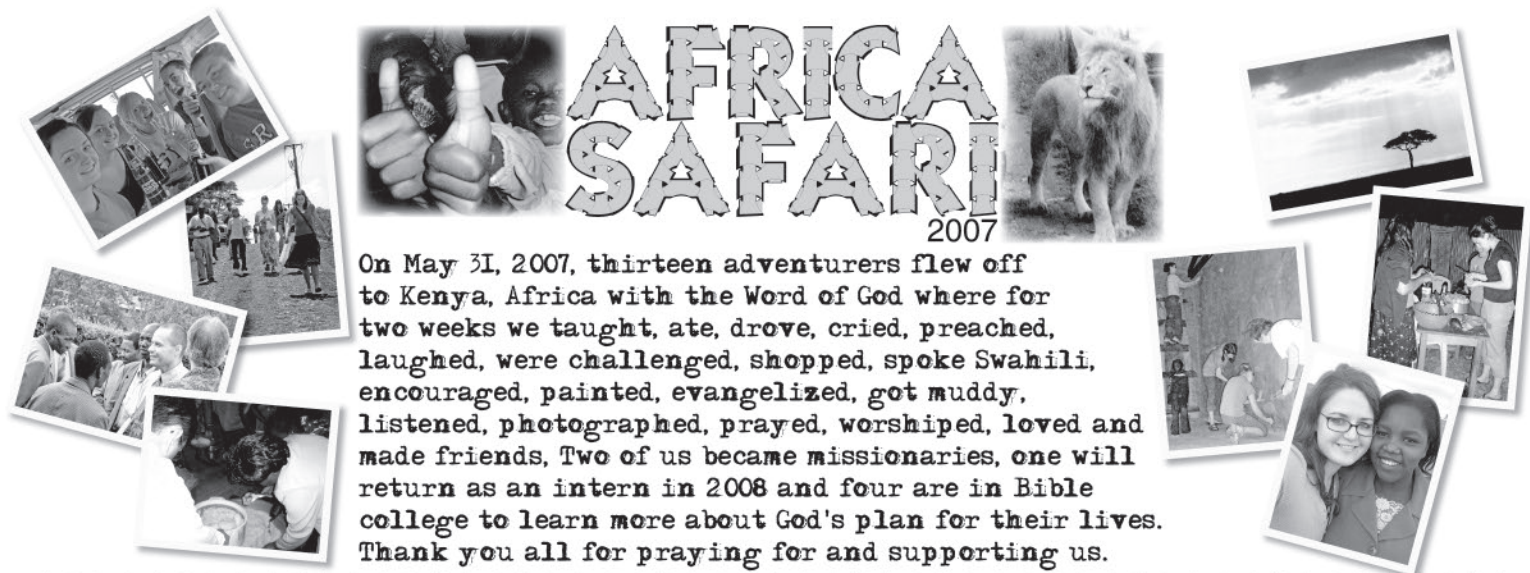
■ JOE & MICHELLE CAMPOS arrived back in Recife, Brazil, in Sept. Plans for entering and start-

ing work in Natal City are on hold till their house in Recife can sell. All Brazilian missionaries are "feeling the pinch" because US\$ exchange rate has fallen 50% delaying the sale. The four Campos kids are going to school in Recife until the Natal move opens up—pray for it to happen!

■ BARRY & KATHY PUMPHREY visited son Sandy in the Chicago area and also the TCM Office. The Pumphreys are looking ahead to find a younger leader for Grace Fellowship

in Birmingham, England, to cause new growth with a new pastor—even one from USA! Anyone ready to apply?

■ VALERIE ANDERSON finished one long circuit through California, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming & Colorado. She rejoices in opportunities to share and challenge at missionary conferences concerning the Muslim world in which she works. Val plans to start her eastern circuit in March till May. Contact Val at Valerie@tcmusa.org or 317-784-8969.



On May 31, 2007, thirteen adventurers flew off to Kenya, Africa with the Word of God where for two weeks we taught, ate, drove, cried, preached, laughed, were challenged, shopped, spoke Swahili, encouraged, painted, evangelized, got muddy, listened, photographed, prayed, worshiped, loved and made friends. Two of us became missionaries, one will return as an intern in 2008 and four are in Bible college to learn more about God's plan for their lives. Thank you all for praying for and supporting us.

Enlightenment, From Page 1

BUDDHISM AS A RELIGION

One fundamental teaching of Buddhism is reincarnation, the concept that one must go through many cycles of birth, living and death; and after many such cycles the follower releases his attachment to desire and self to attain "Nirvana", the state of freedom from suffering, a state of nothingness.



Buddhism is a major world religion founded in NE India and based on teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, son of a ruler, born around 563 BC near the present India-Nepal border. Teachings of the Buddha or Enlightened One were propagated through the *sangha*, a community of disciples of Gautama.

TEACHINGS

The Buddha's Four Noble Truths explore human suffering:

Dukkha: Suffering exists, is real, and almost universal;



Ariel & Faith Mahilum are an experienced ministry team. Pastor Ariel pioneered in urban church planting for

over a decade in the Philippines. Faith is a school teacher serving over 10 years. The Mahilums finished the Asian Center for Mission course, taking their practical ministry in Cambodia in 2006. They returned as full-time TCM missionaries in July 2007 along with their daughter Pauline.

Samudaya: The cause for suffering is the desire to have and control things;

Nirodha: End to suffering, when the mind experiences complete freedom/liberation and no longer desires or craves (*Nirvana*).

Magga: In order to end suffering, you must follow the Eight-Fold Path which is *Panna* (discernment/wisdom):

1) *Samma ditthi* = right understanding of the Four Noble Truths;

2) *Samma sankappa* = right thinking/ following the right path in life: *sila* (virtue/morality);



3) *Samma vaca* = right speech: no lying, criticism, condemning, gossip, harsh language;

4) *Samma kammanta* = right conduct by following the Five Precepts;

5) *Samma ajiva* = right livelihood, support yourself without harming others (*Samadhi*: concentration, meditation);

6) *Samma vayama* = right effort: promote good thoughts, conquer evil thoughts;

7) *Samma sati* = right mindfulness: become aware of your body, mind, feelings;

8) *Samma samadhi* = right concentration: meditate to achieve a higher state of consciousness.

BRANCHES

Buddhism has two branches: **Theravada**, or the Way of the Elders, and **Mahayana**, The Greater Vehicle. Theravada



Buddhism focuses primarily on meditation and concentration of the Eight-Fold Noble Path: a monastic life and extreme expenditure of time in meditating. It left little room for the bulk of humanity to join in, so a new schism erupted within the ranks of Buddhism in the first century AD, which was an attempt to reformulate the teachings of Buddha to accommodate a greater number of people. This new Buddhism, is called the Greater Vehicle (literally: "the Greater Ox-cart") or Mahayana, since it accommodates more believers from all walks of life. They distinguished themselves from mainstream Theravada Buddhism by referring to Theravada as Hinayana or "The Lesser Vehicle."

COMPARISON TO CHRISTIANITY

Some beliefs not shared with Christianity are: the original golden era in the Garden of Eden and man's fall because of sin and the effect of sin on all humans; a world-wide flood in the time of Noah; any transcendent or personal type of God; the need for a personal Savior rather than trusting in one's own good works; eternal life spent in either Heaven or Hell; the final judgment of all human beings by a personal God. Some shared beliefs with Christianity are: do good to other humans and the belief of life after death.

We can be a part of what God is doing to win the Buddhists back to Him and we need to make that difference beginning now! ☀

A Peek Into the MIDDLE KINGDOM

by Myra



I am forever grateful for God's calling in my life. October 7, 2002 I set foot in China for the first time, into the Middle Kingdom, in literal translation (Zhong Guo). Now it has been 5 years since I came and my interest for this vast, diverse

country is still alive—that first fascinating impression that captured my heart never wanes.

THE PEOPLE

The Chinese are generally warm & hospitable people. It is not difficult to make friendships with them because they value relationships so much. During my 5 years stay, I have gained many friends and even consider a few Chinese people like family. A foreigner like me will never have problems making friends and making contacts for evangelism. I am amazed that in spite of the negativism attached to Christianity, Chinese are still very open to know about it and do not turn down conversations about Christ and salvation.

Since there are 1.3 billion people in China, how are we going to reach out to them? That's a big question.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

It is a great privilege to serve God in China. No matter how and what we do, it is always our main goal to preach the message of salvation. And there are ways to do that. Opportunities include teaching

Myra is a TCM "tentmaker" in a major city of the Middle Kingdom. As a manager she has great opportunities to share her faith with the many seekers in this rapidly changing country. As communism recedes into the past, materialism is rapidly replacing it. Pray for Myra as she shows that true peace comes from knowing Jesus, not from any human philosophy.

English, teaching and training believers, language study, helping orphanages, music, discipleship materials, etc. For those who cannot go, there are things to do to help. One need of local churches is financial support for pastors. Some churches need basic facilities like renting apartments for their gatherings. Also young believers want formal Bible training but cannot afford to study abroad, even in neighboring countries where training is not expensive and offers solid, sound teaching. Foreign workers also need prayers, logistics (taco mix, pancake mix, maybe ☺) personal messages (emails, notes, cards, calls) and financial assistance. In most cases these workers not only feed themselves but others as well.

MY PERSONAL JOURNEY

My journey in China has not always been easy but it has always been an amazing and fulfilling one. I have proved His faithfulness in my life every single day. Although I cannot do big and great things, I can do a little one step at a time.

Finally I want to quote one of my favorite missionaries, Hudson Taylor, who said, "I poured out my soul before God ... Again and again confessing my gratefulness to Him who had done something for me. I besought Him to give me some work to do for Him as an outlet for love and gratitude." ✨



God is a missionary God. The Bible is a missionary book. The Gospel is a missionary message. The church is a missionary institution. And when the church ceases to be missionary minded, it has denied its faith and betrayed its trust. -J. Herbert Kane

■ DEAN & SHEBA PADAYHAG tell of the great national conference for ABGMSA in South Africa, held in Padayags' new church plant, the theme: *Imparting the Word—Impacting the World*. Besides the Kempton Park church plant, they opened a new Bible study with Zimbabwean teachers who escaped their crisis country and now live in South Africa. Many good things are going on using the Multi-Media

projector provided by saints in USA.

■ GRACE REVIVAL FOR EVANGELISM VII held Oct. 2-5, brought many of us to Branson, Missouri, invited by Bible Doctrines to Live By. Great displays, thought-provoking messages, testimonies of faith, were all relevant to the topic of reaching our world for Christ. TCM Director Ben Anderson along with Joe & Pauline Watkins,

Vernon & Darlene Anderson reported blessings attending this national grace gathering, meeting many friends and donors.

■ PRAYER REQUEST for the successful recovery of Pastor Nestor Dapat, recently having a kidney transplant in Manila, Philippines. We ask prayer for him and for the expensive anti-rejection medications needed. ✨

International Harvest

The Newsletter of
Things to Come Mission, Inc.
Volume 49, Number 2
Fall 2007

International Harvest is the official newsletter of Things to Come Mission. It is published three times per year from the headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. Circulation is 6,000. The publication may be received without charge by calling (317) 783-0300. Donations to TCM are used to cover costs.

Mail: PO Box 127
Beech Grove, IN 46107
Phone: (317) 783-0300
Email: tcm@tcmusa.org
Website: www.tcmusa.org
Editors: Ben Anderson
Darlene Anderson

TCM Board Members

- Joel McGarvey, President
- Rick Hash, Secretary
- Michael Robinson, Treasurer
- Ben Anderson, Executive Director
- Joseph Watkins, Associate Director
- Richard Ware, Member
- Don Sommer, Member

Things to Come Mission prepares people for Jesus Christ's return through the methods of the Apostle Paul. We accomplish this goal by sending missionaries to evangelize, plant churches and train leaders on six continents. Our financial support comes from free will gifts of churches and individuals. Donations may be sent payable to "Things to Come Mission." TCM will disburse gifts as they are designated. Occasionally, a designated gift is sent for a project which is complete, in which case TCM will use the gift for a similar purpose.

A Gift to Remember

Things to Come Mission wants to acknowledge gifts which have been given in memory of a loved one.

Ernest Eckert

- Grace Bible Study, Lebanon, PA
- Don & Sandy Evans
- Suzanne Potter

Margaret Folli

- Joy Fry
- Mr. & Mrs. Edward Zoon

Ferne Gens

- Jane Waataja

Pastor Meredith Treglown

- Bill & Jane Ebert
- Eleanor Gardner
- Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gulath

Marion Van Harken

- Kenneth & Florence Pagella

WHY Thailand?

by Nathan Killion

To answer that question, here is a brief look at our life over the past year.

In early February, TCM Director Ben Anderson invited my wife, Jessica, and me to be part of the Africa Safari team. We have known Ben since our time at Grace Bible College and he knows our heart for the mission field. For several years we had considered the call to become missionaries and viewed this trip as a way for the Lord to speak to us about serving overseas. We gladly accepted the invitation, knowing that the effects of it might be life-changing for our family.

About six weeks before the trip we had met Genesis and Verna Maraat during their furlough in USA. As our two families bonded, they shared with us their plans of going to Thailand and the need for more missionaries in this Buddhist country of

Southeast Asia. Additionally, they encouraged us as we were contemplating missions and even challenged us to join them in Thailand.

By the end of our trip to Kenya in mid-June, we were confident that God was truly leading us to become missionaries. Even more, He had burdened our hearts with the country of Thailand. The simple truth that less than 1% of their population is Christian was enough for us to strongly consider going to that field. We committed to praying about this decision and within a few weeks of returning home we knew for certain that we were ready to make the commitment to serve as missionaries to the people of Thailand.

The past few months, the Lord had graciously reaffirmed His calling in our hearts in a number of ways. Most recently, my survey trip to Thailand served to emphasize the need for the Gospel in that country. Walking through a few of the innumerable Buddhist temples; watching worshipers bow before idols; talking with individuals who have no concept of Jesus Christ or even the Bible—these experiences vividly demonstrated the need to share "the living and true God" with the Thai people.

For us, the answer to the question, "Why Thailand?" is a matter of following the Lord's calling to share Jesus Christ with a people who so desperately need to hear of His love for them.

"As it is written, 'THEY WHO HAD NO NEWS OF HIM SHALL SEE, AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND.'" -Romans 15:21 ☼

TCM's most recent missionary candidates, Nathan and Jessica Killion and their children, Matthias, Abigail and Chloe, are answering God's call to help open the Buddhist nation of Thailand to the gospel. Graduates of Grace Bible College, the Killions have been pastoring Faith Bible Church in Olney, Illinois for the past 5½ years. During TCM's Africa Safari 2007 the Lord affirmed His desire for them to become full time missionaries. In 2008 the Killions will travel throughout the USA to share their vision for ministry. They plan to leave for Thailand by January 2009.





How can I help?

3 COUNTRIES PROJECTS

AFRICA

KENYA

Missionary Needed!



At one time Kenya had more missionaries than any of our fields. Due to our pioneering work in

Uganda and Thailand, plus the Andersons moving to the Director position, Gardner & Ledith Improso are lone missionaries in Kenya. During the past year, four new Grace churches have sprung up along the Indian Ocean coast of Kenya with no one to work with them. Is God calling you to labor with and learn from the Improsos as you encourage, teach and build the churches in Kenya? The cost: Exchanging the "American dream" for the missionary call of God.

ASIA

CAMBODIA



School Registration

Ariel & Faith Mahilum have opened a computer/English/music school in their "ministry house" in Phnom Penh with 25 students plus the 8 students who live with them. Registering the school officially will expand their outreach, but also allow them to maintain their work permit visa. They have personally met the government official in charge of the education department and he is willing to help them with the paperwork. The government fees for the registration come to \$1400.

EURASIA

TURKEY

Student Bibles

The international school where Valerie Anderson served for the past 7 years would like to give a study Bible to each of the 22 students entering middle school. The students will use these Bibles in their religious education classes for the remainder of their years at the school.



The goal is to train the students to know God's Word, to develop skills for studying the Bible, and to care for their Bibles as a most valuable personal possession that they will keep and continue to use throughout their lives. Each Bible costs \$25.

www.tcmusa.org • tcm@tcmusa.org • (317) 783-0300

**THINGS
TO COME
MISSION**



International Harvest

PO Box 127

Beech Grove, IN 46107



NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 9057