

The SEARLES in THAILAND

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Thai Leadership Meeting

June 6 through the 8th the Thai churches ran a leadership meeting, absolutely fantastic! Pastors and key workers from 15 churches attended. One thing that bothered me was that they asked 3 missionaries to do most of the preaching. I asked Jesda, when there are so many qualified national pastors why would they call on the foreigner! I've been saying for a long time that Thai should be teaching the Thai. Last year I declined an invitation to preach at a family camp for that reason. Jed told me there were two reasons. Most of the Thai men came to the meeting with spiritual needs and needing Biblical encouragement. Several had traveled 12 hours or more and had put a lot of money to just getting there. He said that many of the nationals were new and didn't have the credibility that was needed. He mentioned jealousy. If a one Thai preacher was called upon someone else would feel slighted. I was saddened by what he was telling me but understood. Many times the missions theory that is taught in the classroom loses its shine when put into practice.

Thai Thanksgiving:

June 11 and 12, I was in NongKai way up in the North East, MC'ing a special day of preaching that Butch Krenz was holding. No phone! No Internet! No hot water! No Air! At night you don't walk around with

out a flashlight and even if you do you walk slowly – to let any vipers that may be on the path time to get out of the way. More dangerous than the snakes are the mosquitoes which there are not a few! But what nice people were there! One lady accepted the Lord.

MaNee, With the Lord

I called Booeey and said, "I'm sorry, about your mom". He said, "For what?" I said, "For your mom dying." There was a pause of confusion on his part, and he said, "Teacher, she is in Heaven!" I had to be quiet. For the believers, Heaven is not mystical but substance. Out of the mouth of babes!

Boy was I proud of the members of the church. Ninety - five percent of our members were at the funeral. The ones that had vehicles used them to pick up others. For the month that MaNee was in the hospital and in a coma they visited her and prayed. The Lord used her to teach them. Buddhists came up to me at the funeral and said she had never been happier than when she became a Christian. She accepted the Lord; one week later she was baptized. Two weeks later she was in a coma. A month later she was with the Lord.

TOO OLD!

I went to give blood for a lady who has

cancer. I drove an hour to the first hospital only to be sent down the road to the second 30 minutes further. "How old are you?" They asked. "64", I said. "Too Old," the lab technician said. "Look, I'm 64 but I feel like I'm 35. I'm 35!" I said. "OK, we'll give you an exception," the technician said. That was the first time in my life I was told you are too old!! Dr. Wane Schimish preached a message out of Lev. 27 called "The Estimation". The gist of the message was that God expects more from the younger. The estimation for man 60 years old and above is fifteen shekels. A man less than 60 has an estimation of 50. Quite honestly I don't like having less expected of me BUT on the other hand this isn't about me and my 15 shekels. It's about what God can do and He is doing great and wonderful things in NakornNayok. People are studying, giving, witnessing, visiting the sick and helping members who can't do for themselves.

Thank You for allowing me to witness God's goodness and power!!

Tim, Maureen And Ben