MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year 2011 to all beloved “Shining Light in Thailand” readers. Firstly, I would like to express my deep appreciation and thankfulness to the Lord for His blessings throughout the year 2010. Secondly, I would like to thank all Thailand Mission’s supporters for their prayers and financial support, assisting us in so many ways. Thank you very much once again for your faithful commitment to the ministry of soul winning for the Lord’s Kingdom. The work in Thailand is a great challenge to the Church. We cannot do much without humbling and uniting ourselves to serve the Lord with open hands and bended knees. We pray that in the year 2011 we can do much greater things to glorify God in His mighty power. We plan to go into more un-entered areas especially in the central part of the country and in the city of Bangkok. We pray as Jabez prayed and called on the God of Israel, saying, “Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested. (1Ch 4:10)”

New Work in Thailand Mission

After much searching and prayers we felt a burden to reach the Mien Tribe in Thailand. This tribe numbering approximately 250,000 lives mostly in the northern part of Thailand. Thailand Adventist Mission started the work for the Mien people sometime back but due to a lack of workers and financial support the work was very slow with not much progress. We do have some church members and a Mien church built at Pangkhone. At present there is a young man by the name of Mr Anuson Kalamasniti, who finished his ministerial training at Mission College and who is very interested to work as a church pastor and reach out to the Mien people. Pastor Brian Wilson was able to raise some funds to support Mr Anusorn last year, but for this year we need Bht 144,000 or USD 5,142 for the Mien work.

This year we are in the process of opening an International school in Ubon, Northeast region, on the same campus as the former Mission School. We plan to reach out to the educated and city people through their children. Many former students told us that they would like to support the international school by sending their children to attend our school. Please keep this project in your daily prayers.

Thai Theology Students

Thailand Adventist Mission coordinated with the Asia Pacific International University (AIU, formerly Mission College) to offer a bachelor’s degree in the Thai medium for Thai ministerial training. Twenty-seven lay pastors who have served in the field for many years are in the first group to study. Now they have the opportunity to equip themselves with knowledge to be full-time ministers for the church in the future. This program will produce more workers for Thailand Adventist Mission in the future. It will take five years to finish their Theology Degree. We may need about one million Baht or US$35,000 to complete this Theology program. At the present time we have 10 Thai Theology students studying at AIU in the English program. We are highly blest and we really appreciate Dr Paul Watsons’ fund to cover some of these students’ expenses.

Thank you for all your prayers and financial support. May the Lord continue to bless you throughout the year 2011 and beyond.

--Chanchai Kiatyanyong
Description:
“Health Expo is an event which aims to make the public aware of the advantages of a healthy lifestyle. This event aims to be a family friendly event with health screening, health exhibits, health demonstrations and lectures. This will be conducted in a public area over a period of three consecutive days, where anyone can walk in and check their health and express their interest in other health ministry. Every day the program will culminate in health evangelism.”

The above plans were put into action with the cooperation of Adventist institutions: hospital, schools, churches, laymen and church members’ companies and schools and with the goal of reaching out to the general public. The project successfully accomplished its objectives and so we would like to express our gratitude to all our supporters.

This first health expo was held from November 11 to 14, 2010 at the MBK shopping mall, one of the busiest and most popular malls in Bangkok. Mr Churin Laksanawisit, the Thailand Minister of Health was the guest of honor and cut the ribbon during the opening ceremony.

The program during the four days was mainly to give basic physical checkups, relaxation massages, health age appraisals, and counseling from doctors and nutritionists. The heart of the program was the NEWSTART exhibition where all participants received knowledge on how to take care for their bodies. At the end of the health examination each person received the “Treasure to Health” Voice of Prophecy (VOP) lesson. Throughout the four days there were musical presentations by students from our church schools, university and laymen’s schools. Aerobic exercise and vegetarian cooking demonstrations were also highlights of the expo.

Between 150 and 200 volunteers worked tirelessly each day. These volunteers were mostly church members, students and office workers. The Hope for Bangkok personnel, under the leadership of Pastor Douglas Venn, Program Coordinator, were the core group for this event. During the four days approximately 2,000 people participated in the event and about ten percent filled out the form requesting spiritual development. Our next task is to follow up these souls for Christ.

We also sincerely thank private companies for their support: Bangkok Transit System for half price tickets during the four days for our staff, the YAMAHA Piano Company for musical instruments and the Far East Broadcasting Company for free radio advertisements.

We thank God for the abundant blessings throughout the program.

At the right is a sample of Your Health Age Group Report that the patients received.
CHIANGRAI EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS

From November 10 to 19, 2010, Pastor Richard Smith and his wife, Mr Elden Smith and his wife, and Pastor Richard Smith’s mother came to Chiangrai to hold evangelistic meetings at Rajaphat University. The attendance was over a hundred per night including Sunday Church members, university students, and interests from outside.

The Chiangrai church members did the ground work for four months before the meeting. During the meetings Brother Elden Smith talked about health. After the health lecture, Pastor Richard Smith preached. The highlight of the evangelistic meetings was the baptism of 11 precious souls.

Pastor Richard Smith and Mr Elden Smith formulated a five-year plan for evangelistic meetings in Chiangrai city. They plan to rent a house for the pastor to stay in and then later on to buy land to build a church. Thailand Adventist Mission very much appreciates their work. Please continue to pray for the plans.

CHINESE OUTREACH CENTER -- MAESALONG

The Chinese Union through the 1,000 Missionary Movement in the Philippines sent Miss Chen Ying and Miss Liu Meng to work in the Maesalong District, Chiangrai Province. The population of this area is mostly Chinese who came from China 50 years ago. Early last year, through the leadership of Pastor Jack Liang from the United States, and Pastor Terry Tsui from Hongkong, these two ladies were sent to be trained at the 1,000 Missionary Movement in preparation for work among the Chinese in Maesalong.

After the ladies had been working in Maesalong area for a while the Baptist and Catholic pastors were not happy because many young people from their churches went to worship regularly with these two ladies and had started to prepare for baptism. At the same time, these young people refused to go to school and work on the Sabbath day. This made some of the teachers unhappy. But the parents were very happy because their children were learning Chinese and English from our missionaries. The students who came to worship improved their grades and got higher marks compared to the past.

At the same time the government school administrator invited them to teach Chinese at the government school. Every Wednesday they take a Bible class in the school and more than 40 students are now attending this class.

Please pray for these two young ladies.

THAILAND MISSION ORDAINS TWO YOUNG PASTORS

On November 27, 2010, Thailand Adventist Mission performed the ordination of two of their pastors, Pastor Nipitpon Pongteekatasana and Pastor Thong-in Putsom.

Pastor Nipitpon is a former professor at Mission College, ADRA worker, and Phuket and Chiangmai Church pastor. More recently, he moved to Bangkok and worked as the TAM Health Director. At present he is the Executive Secretary of the Thailand Adventist Mission.

Pastor Thong-in, is the former Chiangrai, Roi-et, Amantcharern and Haadyai Church pastor. Now he serves as the Phuket Church pastor.

Both pastors are young, but they are truly servants of God. This will benefit the Church work of Thailand Mission.
**MEDICAL OUTREACH**

Bangkok Adventist Hospital, through the leadership of Somchai Chuenjit, President, and Thailand Adventist Mission, through the leadership of their President and Secretary, formed a medical outreach team to go to the Ban Maepa, Maesot District, on December 10 and 11, 2010. We finished the building of an SDA Church early last year for this village. We would like them to know about the Seventh-day Adventist work. Through this outreach many people have come to know about our work.

Doctor Nick Walters, Bangkok Adventist Hospital physician, and his team spent the whole afternoon of the 11th in helping the patients. Also some of the government leaders came and joined the medical outreach group.

**PHUKET NEW SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATE**

Phuket Thepamnuay School has moved the school from the Phuket Hospital property to the church property. The construction started in the middle of last year. So far, the building is not yet completed because of lack of funds. The total cost of the building is twenty-one million baht and we still need about ten million to complete the project. We would like to start classes in this building in the next school year commencing in May 2011 and move all classes from the current location to the new building. We would like to solicit your support.
During the months of December 2010 and January 2011 Mr and Mrs Udom Srikureja, and Pastor Rungsit Satayavaksakool, joined hands to purchase 1,800 mosquito nets, blankets, and t-shirts for churches in the northern part of Thailand. This includes the Lahu, Akha, Karen, Hmong and Thai churches. In the northern part of Thailand, many areas are affected by malaria and it is very cold. Mr Udom Srikureja and his family and the Laos Project assisted these members.

Next year we plan to assist our church members in the northeastern part of Thailand. We need your support for this project.

Leona Grace Peach was born on May 17, 1932 to Lester and Rose Peach in La Grande, Oregon. She grew up on a wheat farm that her grandfather had homesteaded. She went to Gem State Academy and later attended Walla Walla College where she met her husband David Gouge. Before they were married David would go with her back to the farm. Her family was impressed by how hard of a worker he was.

David and Leona were married on March 25, 1951 and in 1954 they started their long road of taking care of others by adopting David’s niece and nephew after their mother was killed in a car accident. Later Victor and Julie joined the family.

Soon after David and Leona were married David was drafted into the military. They moved to San Antonio, Texas where Leona started her teaching career in a one room school. She taught school and took care of two young children after David went to Germany for 18 months in the army. After David got out of the army they both were teachers at Nampa, Idaho, Boise, Idaho, Olympia, Washington, and Pasco, Washington. Then in 1965 they became missionaries to Vietnam. This is where Leona’s experience of cooking for farm workers really helped. They would provide Sabbath meals for up to 50 US Army soldiers. They also started their care of students who now call them Dad and Mom. When David’s health started to fail they moved to Singapore where they taught for four years. Then it was on to the Philippines where again they took many students into their home and hearts. Three years later it was to Indonesia and then they finished 20 years of missionary service on Guam.

They then returned to the United States for nine years of teaching at Gem State Academy. David and Leona helped take care of both of their mothers. After retiring in 1994 it was back to the mission field as volunteers to Thailand. Again they found their special jobs of loving and caring for many students who now call them granpa and grandma.

A tragic car accident in Thailand took Leona’s life on November 21, 2010. She is survived by her loving husband David Gouge, and children Ron Gouge, Rachel Abbot, Victor Gouge and Julie Peach, 10 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren and many adopted children and grandchildren.

Victor Gouge
November 29, 2010
Ekamai International School, through the leadership of Mrs Beatrice Kootanasan and Miss Udom Saegnsawang; Ramkhamhaeng Adventist International School, through the leadership of Mr and Mrs Udom Srikureja; Thailand Adventist Mission, led by Pastor Chanchai Kiatyanyong, President, Pastor Nipitpon Pongteekatasana, Executive Secretary, Pastor Mun Lansri, Ban Nadee Church pastor and Pastor Rungsit Satayavaksakool, Laos Project Coordinator, brought 1,700 mosquito nets, 1,700 blankets, 1,700 t-shirts, 1,700 pairs of sandals, 3,000 pens, and 1,000 pencils to help the Xayabury Ethnic Boarding School and Luangprabang Ethnic Boarding school. These schools have over 1,600 students and 100 teachers. Through the leadership of Xayabury Education Director and Deputy Governor and also the Luangprabang Provincial Education Director, and the two schools’ administrators, the group was given a warm welcome and their appreciation freely expressed. We had a chance to preach our message to students and teachers. The government officers very much appreciated the distribution.

Mr Paengma and Mrs Soonthavin, representatives of the Ministry of Education also participated in this distribution.

Last month Pastor Rungist had a chance to meet the Deputy Minister of Education of the Laos Government, and Pastor Boonprany Wanadee, Laos Mission President. They have requested assistance from the Laos Project for the next three years. Pastor Rungsit Satayavaksakool has agreed to accept their request. If anyone would like to assist the Laos Project both the church and government, please feel free to contact Pastor Rungsit on his new email address: Rungsit1950@hotmail.com.

The Laos Project plans to buy a piece of land for a cemetery for the Laos church, and build five churches over the next three years. The Namyuen church which was built some 40 years ago is now too small and not strong enough. The Laos Mission has started to build the church foundation, but does not have enough funds to finish this building. We need about US$7,000 to finish the building. They also plan to build churches in Namyoo, Borikhamxai and one church in Paksae. They also want to finish the Namaa Church building. Please continue to pray for the Laos church.