



## Lambert Family Update February 2011

*It has always been my ambition to preach the Gospel where Christ has not been named" (Romans 15:20)*

Dear Friends and Family,

As I write this update, we're finishing up a strategic conference with Christian leaders from all over the Buddhist majority world. Each year this conference puts out a key missions book on a specific topic. The content comes from the papers presented by the members, and the book is then published by the William Carey Library.

**Thrust into leadership.** Our Thailand country group is the largest among the over 150 delegates present. Most at this conference are leaders for their denominations, have been in missions for decades, or have PhDs in their field.

This is only my second year at the conference, but I found myself in a place of leadership when I was asked to organize our Thailand group's goals and objectives and present them before all the other nations present. This was a surprise and a great honor!

When I spend time with these leaders or others like them, they always ask me what organization I'm with. When I tell them I'm sent by a local church in Charlotte, NC, they're always surprised. I take this opportunity to tell them the story of our church, our pastors, and my favorite people in the world: our supporters (you)!

**Building bridges.** During the conference I met a former monk turned Christian theologian who's working with the Burmese people in Myanmar. I spent many hours picking

his brain about his successful work among the Buddhists of Burma. I felt like I should take this brother to a local Burmese church connected with our COC family. When we showed up, it was like a family reunion! The Burmese pastors

and my friend had lost touch for many years, and now they'd been brought together by "chance."

My friend was able to share his heart for reaching the Buddhists with his fellow Burmese living in Thailand. He wept as he spoke of their great need for Jesus and the barriers to be crossed to build bridges for better understanding. I felt joy for being able to be a bridge myself!

**Stretching and growing.** I just finished up a one month commitment as acting director of a local ministry called "The Centre." This ministry has been serving Chiang Mai's university students for over 15 years through relationships and English classes. I managed the

daily operations of the Thai and international staff, as well as hosting three mission teams from the US.

In our last newsletter I mentioned our work with the Christian Outreach Centre. As a way for us to get to know one another, as well as provide some practical ministry, I volunteered to redesign their web site and reorganize their massive work and vision for the web. I am no designer by any stretch, but I am a communicator so I wanted to help.

Eighty pages of freshly-written-and-organized copy later, their new site was launched. I'm in the process of training others how to use and update the site from now on. You can see it at [www.cocthailand.com](http://www.cocthailand.com).

**God-connections.** We have recently connected with a new team called the "Revolutionary Life." This ministry, led by Dustan and Darlene Stanley, seeks to raise up a new awareness of missions work and to mobilize a new generation of cross-cultural workers to be equipped and sent. Part of their



The Centre in Chiang Mai.



Old friends from Burma reunited.

strategy is a new television program, now on its second season of editing and soon to be ready for a network to pick up.

Together we gathered at 4:30 AM to pray and do street evangelism in the city center. This was the time the Lord spoke, so we went with it not really knowing the hows or whys. We traveled out in groups of two or three and engaged people in conversation. We met everyone from teenage prostitutes and transvestites to street sweepers, recyclers and exercisers to religious folks preparing food for morning offerings, from monks to visiting foreign tourists, and even bird watchers believe it or not!



Darlene, Dustan, John and Jacq.

Our first encounter was with a girl named Mint. She was sitting and weeping because she'd been hurt by a "customer" and

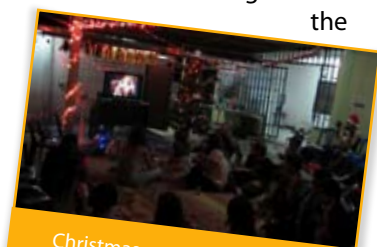
was locked out of her room. She came from the same region I had just moved away from. We spoke to her about God's plan for her life, about His great love and His desire for her to find true freedom. We prayed with her for the love of God to surround her and give her strength to change.

Every time we went out there was someone God had arranged for us to meet. Sometimes our conversations were short and we left people with literature in their language. Other times we spoke in-depth and started to build friendships. We befriended a gang of young people who sat in the square drinking and cutting up all night. Many were on methamphetamine and were prostituting girls for drug and drink money. Desperate situations.

There are so many more stories and situations, but time and space won't allow me to tell them all. In each scenario we sought to speak boldly in the name of Jesus and call people to repentance, new life, freedom, and new hope.

**Christmas party.** The team held a Christmas Eve party for everyone we met on the streets, and we had a rich variety of people there! To my surprise, I looked up to see Mint arriving too. Since our talk, God has really been working in her life! Last I heard she was looking for a new job.

At the party, we played games, sang songs, and ate a Thai meal together. Then I gave my first evangelistic message in front of a group... all in Thai! My Thai friend translated into English for the non-Thais! I spoke about the true meaning of Christmas and how Jesus is God's gift to the world; all we have to do is receive him with grateful hearts. I didn't think I was ready, but when I was thrust into this place, by the grace of God, I was able to do it!



Christmas party in full swing.

Afterwards we broke into small groups to talk and pray. The team was able to pray with everyone there. One Thai man who had been a professional tarot card reader for 15 years surrendered his life to Jesus!

**Christmas outreach.** We also did a Christmas outreach to Burmese patients who were coming to our city for treatment for life threatening conditions. I connected the team to our Burmese pastor's wife who speaks Thai, Burmese, and English. With her help we started a new ongoing ministry where there was none before. That day we ate together, sang songs, did a drama, presented the Gospel clearly, prayed with people for salvation, and even laid hands on the sick and prayed for healing! Powerful time!

To God be the glory for the great things He has done!

**On the homefront.** After a quiet time at home for Christmas, our family went on vacation for the first time since coming to Thailand. It was completely spontaneous. We had to pack and be on the bus within three hours! It was a great way to end a year and begin another.

Aslan is seeing the speech and occupational therapists 2-3 times per week and is still attending school. Brayden continues to make new friends and is doing great in school. He will be finishing 3rd grade a week after he turns 8! Jacq is making new friends too and continues to be a blessing to everyone she meets. By the time you receive this, I will be turning 35! I am thankful that we are able to serve our King here in Thailand.



Burmese praying to receive Jesus.



Brayden!



Aslan captivates Haven Homes kids.

Thank you for doing what you do. We appreciate your prayers and ongoing partnership. Without you, none of these stories would be reality.

**Love,**  
**The Lamberts**  
**John, Jacqueline, Brayden and Aslan**

To support our ministry, please visit [www.spreadtheflame.com](http://www.spreadtheflame.com).