

Yawa News May 2023

Baptist
Mission
Australia



Greetings dear friends who walk alongside us with your interest, support and prayers - thank you all we - couldn't do without you. Enjoy the view from one of the restaurants "in town" of Sangklaburi - 17 kms from home



After the COVID years when we were stuck in Australia Anna was so glad to have a chance to "come home" to Thailand during the school Christmas break and joined us in Christmas gift distributions.

We had hoped to have a few smaller gatherings and folk were so looking forward to this but then COVID spiked again and so back to visiting every home - a gift of essentials and a Christmas greeting and a written message in the 2 most common languages - pray for those who read and understood. Visiting around 200 homes took time !



Easter celebrations have generally been very low key here in Thailand. Still not much emphasis on Good Friday so just a very small group shared the last supper at our house. But this year several of the local churches combined for Easter Sunday - starting with a pre-dawn service in our Christian cemetery to remember those who went to the empty tomb then a big service to celebrate the resurrection - a joy filled day & plans to continue (maybe add Friday).

Hey - it's May !!!!!

That means Mother's Day - and **May Mission Month** in Australian Baptist Churches :

Time for a video update from us that you can view personally or in your Churches and groups.

Our theme for the year is "Alongsiders" - we can all be !!

Here's the links to view it from the website of Baptist Mission Australia.

Video (no captions) : <https://vimeo.com/822872792>

With captions : <https://vimeo.com/823202585/ff54795073>

Or you can check out the website

- baptistmissionaustralia.org

Resources/Mission Month/resources/
intercultural update videos - find ours
- and lots of other good resources too.



Jit had been preparing ChaiYarThit (the young quadriplegic man) who was very keen to be baptized at Christmas. His faith is strong and he was very ready. Practical details of a stretcher and 4 of the staff who have been working with him was a reminder of the men who brought their friend and lowered him through the roof in front of Jesus.



Jit had the privilege of baptizing him along with others. His Buddhist family came too and felt included. What a joyous day.

Anna chatted to ChaiYarThit about his decisions - previously he could not see any reason for hope in his life especially after his accident but the things Sammy shared with him brought hope as he put his trust in Jesus - now he is sure that his future is in God's hands.

Modifications to make life easier;

A bamboo floor for a hospital bed that I was afraid I might fall through and a lady hopping through a muddy path from her makeshift living to a platform to bathe and do washing, set us in motion to help provide a couple of cemented areas. We worked with the families and the simple modifications are making big change.



50 Golden Years !! (not us !!)

Missionaries first came here in 1961 and of course there was a worshipping community but in 1973 the Sangklaburi Christian Church was formally established as a church. Many months of renovations and planning with great co-operation of members. The 50th Anniversary Celebration was a great 4+ day event. Days of competitions - sports, Bible memorisation, singing and then a great day of thankful worship also incorporating the ordination of 3 off the association pastors (including husband of Molly - our staff). Following on then, were the annual association meetings - the church hosting 3 more days.



Booths display history pics



Motorcycle :

A rather mysterious gift arrived into the Lanternlight funds in Baptist Mission Australia accounts. As we had sufficient funding for the year we were given permission to use this gift for needs that weren't budgeted. We had a motorcycle sidecar we weren't using but we were using the specially adapted motorcycle for visitation. The Shalom team needed a sidecar but it would be sensible to pair it with its motorcycle. They didn't have funding. So we were able to purchase a new motorcycle with the special funds and then gift the set to their team. We could all see God at work in this gift and are so thankful to the unknown donor.



Another quick trip - Jan went for checkups in Feb/March. Even there in time to be personal at the mission spot. Doctor's comment - "your results are amazing" gave us cause for heartfelt thanks and my comments to Anna - that's what you've been praying for !! (and we have been too). My leg ulcer is very gradually reducing. Jit managed here in Thailand but was glad for my return date !!

We have been saddened at the recent deaths of a few of our longterm Lanternlight members - some reasonably young - some expected but some unexpected. Then, the sudden death of one of our very special friends. Tookadar was a teacher in our school, wife of a pastor, had been helping with our Lanternlight bookkeeping all the time we were away because of COVID. She had heart issues but she collapsed acting in their Christmas play.

To Praise & to Pray :

**Our opportunity visit so many for Christmas - Pray the messages will touch hearts.*

**ChaiYarThit - thanks for his baptism - pray for ongoing spiritual growth and encouragement and his health. For his family as they care for 2 sons.*

**Jan's ongoing health matters - thanks for good results.*

**Thanks for the local church & all their daughter groups (some now churches too) as they step into another 50 !!*

**That our work will bring light and hope as Alongsiders.*

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