

Eighth Report on Short-term Mission Trip (12-19 November 2005)

Ten days in Chiangmai

Before leaving for Hong Kong and Australia, all members of our mission team shared their experiences and gave their testimonies in our hotel room. Most of us were touched, renewed and strengthened in our faith and commitment through our experiences during our trip. Our Hong Kong team left Chiangmai at 11 AM and Australian team left at 3 PM.



Sharing Departing

I stayed behind for ten days in Chiangmai. During my stay I had done the following things.

1. Visiting and speaking at Shan fellowship
2. Speaking and live interview at Chiangmai Shan radio broadcasting station
3. Meeting Shan leaders and plan for future Shan ministry
4. Buying a truck for Thoed Thai Tai church.
5. Meeting AOI foundation and CCT to plan for future Mekong Region Training Centre.

I was told that there are about one million Shan living in Chiangmai. Most of them are Buddhist. There were three big Shan monasteries in Chiangmai organizing Buddhist activities charity works. There is no Shan missionary or evangelist working among the Shan in Chiangmai but there are some foreign missionaries. I was invited to speak at one Shan fellowship one evening. I was there with local Thai pastor at 7 PM. Only three Shan turned up at 8 PM. They got the words of encouragement.

I was invited to speak at Shan radio broadcast at 2 PM. It was neither religious nor political broadcast but educational and informational program. During half an hour live interview people phoned in and asked questions. I realize that many Shan in Chiangmai have listened to my radio broadcasting from Far East Broadcasting Company. I was warmly welcome and greeted by listeners.

Knowing and making friends with Shan leaders are very important when we work among the Shan. When I was having dinner with nine Shan leaders, including director of Euro-Burma office, I was asked to say grace for the food before eating. I

was surprised to see that they wanted a Christian prayer before eating. In fact they were Buddhists. In the past Shan people used to say, 'Shan are Buddhists and Buddhism is Shan religion.' But now they become more open. I had the opportunity of telling them that all the Shan are God's children.

We are so thankful to Dr. Tagami of Japan for his generosity in giving us money to buy a used truck for our Thoed Thai Tai church. I spent ten days for this purpose and finally we were able to buy a very good used ISUZU truck under the name of Asian Outreach International Foundation. The chairman of AOI Thailand Dr. Somchai was extremely helpful in this process. This truck will be a great blessing to our children and ministry in Thoed Thai and other places in Thailand.

I had an opportunity of meeting leaders from Church of Christ Thailand and we were able to discuss and plan for future Mekong Region Training Centre. CCT will also recognize our Thoed Thai Tai Church as one of their members, offering us protection and cooperation in the future. AOI Thailand Foundation also has the same vision of developing Mekong Training Centre. We will work together and develop this project in 2006.



Chiangmai Shan broadcast Truck for Shan missions

After getting a truck we test drive our truck from Chiangmai to Thoed Thai on 28 November. It was perfect. Dr. Somchai and Rev. Sawan spent two days with us listening and studying our ministries in Thoed Thai. Dr. Somchai promised to go and visit our Thoed Thai Tai church every month and give them his expert advice.

2005 Special report on Thoed Thai Shan Missions is coming soon