Romans:1:16 "The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes"

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Some students in my grade 6 class.



These students played in the skit of "the Good Samaritan"

1 Thailand and Eastern Culture

Anyone who knows the East will tell you the value system works a bit different here than in the West or in African cultures. For example, nobody fails in the school system. If a student really doesn't have the ability to pass, he will just get 50%. No questions asked. I have tried to persuade my superiors of failing a student. It is just not done. For example if all the students did poorly in a test, that test wouldn't count. The obvious problem that arises then is that you get students in the higher grades that are so poor that they can practically understand English. But then again they will just be put through and so the cycle is repeated. I am actually not supposed to tell you this, but this is just the fact in the education system in Thailand. I'm not sure about the Universities but in Grade 1-12 it works like this.

As I said before the Thai's are very proud of being Buddhist. I once gave a tract to a Thai man and said to him the booklet is about God. He then replied: "but I am Buddhist." I then replied to him and said "It is free, just take it." He reluctantly took it, but I could see that he thinks that he doesn't need anything from "God". You might know that Buddhists don't believe in God. One of their core values is impermanence. Everything is in a state of change. Therefore their is also no individuality. Meditation is there to realize that you as a self(person) don't exist and therefore such a being as God does not exists as well. Needless to say they need their eyes to be opened to the truth of the

gospel and the fact of eternal judgement. (Revelation 20:11-15; Matthew 25:31-46)

2. Narivitaya School

Last week we had English day.(14th of February) I wrote a script for the Grade 4 class based on the Good Samaritan. The title was "How to be a true friend?" I adjusted the story to life in Thailand and the culture. The students were really excited about this play. We practised it every week from last year December.

At the other club I teach, I've continued with teaching them Bible and other songs. "Old MacDonald had a farm.." was a huge hit!" "He's got the whole world in His hands.."; "Jesus loves me, this I know.." and "Making melodies in my heart.." were amongst the songs that I taught them. They really like the songs and the actions. Hopefully the gospel will stick.



The Pilipino's performed a dance at International day

The foreigners at the English department performed three Christmas songs during Christmas time with a bit of dancing! I don't think that was such a big hit though, but we did the best we could and the Thai people appreciated our effort.

Further on in Narivitaya school all is as it always was. They still pray to Mary and

things aren't looking as if they are going to change in the near future. What is amazing from what I've observed is that the whole school pray the "Lord's Prayer" every morning! That is something to be commended. Something we cannot say even in our Christianized South Africa.



My Grade 5 class.

3. Outreach(Bangkok and Ratchaburi)

Firstly I'm grateful that I could distribute a lot of Gospel booklets in Bangkok on several occasions during the December holidays as well as around the market place in Ratchaburi and at two shopping centres. In and around shopping malls are great places to share the Word of God and to distribute gospel literature. Some really look interested in what I am giving them and thank me heartily. God knows which seeds will grow into fruition.

I usually introduce myself in Thai and say this booklet is about God. When they hear that some may ask "Pra Jesu" That means "Jesus"? Then I say "yes" and give it to them. I must say that it takes a certain amount of courage to walk to a complete stranger and hand him/her a booklet. But once you've done it then God may work through the message. And there might just be some who have never heard or

understood the gospel clearly. So that gives me confidence.



Here is a shopping mall in Bangkok. It goes about eight or nine stories up. But it's not that wide. Different countries are displayed in the mall.





Here is a short video clip of Bangkok at night.

Global Media Outreach

Things at this Internet ministry are going well. I've reduced my daily contacts a little because of too much work at school. But I'm really excited about two replies I received from my contacts. After I clearly explained the events, promises and claims of Christ in a gospel message to one contact, after considering, he replied that he was ready to receive Christ irrespective of the consequences. I cannot remember what country he was from, but it wasn't from a Muslim country.

After I explained to another contact that Jesus came to earth and that He was God in the flesh and died for us, he replied something like "so God really came to this earth to be a human being?" I was amazed that this contact never heard that God became a man and came to this earth to die for us". I explained the gospel to him and hopefully he will decide to commit to Jesus. But is that not amazing! Some missiologists say that over 2 billion people on this planet have never heard the clear gospel message. What a privilege to be a carrier of this news! May God have us for this mercy on awesome responsibility!

We direct these contacts off course to follow up and discipleship material on the web. May God continue to work through His Word.

Seed Church(Petchaburi)

My boss and I have started English classes in Petchaburi(the province just next to Ratchaburi) about an hour's drive from Ratchaburi. We are doing this now every Sunday after church. Our location is at a branch of Seed Church. Some church members are attending as well as some University students. In our second meeting, after sharing God's love with them and after the pastor shared the gospel, two university students prayed to receive Christ as Saviour and Lord. I know that doesn't necessarily mean that they are saved but the seeds were sown and we can pray that they will come to the church in Petchaburi and that they will have a genuine conversion. I also shared my testimony with some of them the first

time we went there. We are planning to do these classes until the second week in March before I go the South Africa.

The Bible teaches in <u>Luke 15:7,10</u> that there is joy in heaven in the presence of the angels for everyone who repents.



Karuna teaching at the English class on Sunday's and the students.



4. Holidays in South Africa

I'm planning to visit South Africa during our break in March and April. Really looking forward to it and hopefully I will partner with some ministries while I'm there in different outreaches as time permits.

I plan to stay at Narivitaya School for the coming year unless I find another job in Thailand at another school or unless something better comes up. During the holidays I will remain working with GMO(Global Media Outreach) as I would have more time for that ministry. The

holidays would give me more time to reply to more contacts.

5 Prayer and Praise

As I was counselling with a counsellor one day he told me the benefits of giving regular thanks to God. He said it must become like a daily habit. So I listed 10 categories in which our thanksgiving of God could flow. This is not an exhaustive list but meant to be helpful. As Paul says in 1 Tessalonians 5:17 "In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus"

Praise and Thanksgiving:

- For God the Father[His love and mercy, protection, provision (food, clothes, shelter), providences(a job), discipline]
- Jesus Christ [His incarnation; Righteousness; Sacrifice on the cross; Grace; Obedience; Resurrection; Teaching; Truth Intercession)
- The Holy Spirit[Conviction of sins; guidance; help; comfort; encouragement; strength; sanctification; repentance; faith]
- The Bible[Eternal words; promises; warnings ext.]
- 5. The Church--Good books; sermons; DVD's music; Cd's
- 6. Family and friends
- God's revelation through nature and the created order(plants; animals ext.)
- 8. Witness opportunities [words, literature, prayers]
- 9. Suffering and the cross

10. Health or relative health or the lack of it.(medicine)

I realize that there might be some overlapping here but it is just a guideline e.g God the Father's provision like food and water is also part of his general revelation and faith comes from God the Holy Spirit as well as from the Father and the Son , I think the Trinity all give the same Gift of faith. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:8,9 "Faith is a gift of God" It doesn't specify which Person in the Trinity it originates from. I guess it is a Trinitarian gift. All the Person's in the Godhead are involved. Someone said: "God the Father thought it, the Son bought(worked it at the cross) it and the Spirit wrought it (applies it in our lives)." The same applies to salvation.

Prayer requests

- 1 Where my focus should be in the coming year in work and ministry.
- 2. Experiencing the power and presence of God as a daily reality in times of temptations and trails and comfort.
- 3. For patience in dealing with naughty children.
- 4. For God's gospel seeds in prayers, literature, speech, text messages and songs to have Gods desired outcomes(bear fruit).
- 5. If I should stay at Narivitaya school or move to another school or ministry.
- 6. My stay in Thailand. That God would open and closed doors as He sees fit and

that I would joyously and obediently follow.

- 7. My visit in South Africa be blessed, with family and friends and ministry partners.
- 8. That I would rest in God's finished work in Jesus Christ.

6. Contact details:

Someone wanted to make a donation for the ministry so here is my bank details. For further reference if someone wants to contact me or give a donation:

Email: nicovanzyl@gmail.com

Cell phone in Thailand: +(66)875609517

Cell phone in South Africa: 0722093794

Bank details: Absa Bank. Acc: 9076238678

Branch: Brandwag

Savings account.

Romans 10:17 " How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things;

Romans 10: 18 "so faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"



Some grade 4 students.





This is a strange kind of a fruit. It is almost tasteless, called "



Seed Church in a worship service.



Worship service



Skyscrapers in Bangkok



Revelation 5:13: " And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

"Blessing and honour and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and ever."