



YawaNews - August 2023

View across Sangklaburi and lake at headwaters of Kwai River

Our dear friends - greetings as August gets under way with heavy rains here. Thai people love public holidays - it has been said there are more here than any other country and if there's a non-holiday day or two between others then the government will just grant those as bridging holidays to make a longer break !!

As I write, we've just had a 6 day break culminating today in a very significant day for faithful Buddhists - the beginning of Buddhist Lent period for the next 3 months. A time of contemplation, teaching and denying pleasures. Monks are required to remain in their own temples with regular teaching - they must be given special permission to stay anywhere else including in hospital if they are sick. Most Thai men become monks for a period (short or long) but if they enter at the beginning of Buddhist Lent they may not leave until the close in 3 months.

These are just a few facts.

Muana and Villy have prepared a great video and there's a very informative prayer booklet. I've had difficulty in getting the links into this newsletter but hopefully you can access these - see next window.



Prayer Guide: Double page spread for on screen viewing

Prayer Guide :Single page spread for printing

Prayer Guide: For printing with fewer photos

Link for the great video:

<https://vimeo.com/844122841/a34e171c8f>

Link for the double page spread booklet :

https://www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/globalinteraction/media/documents/just-prayer/Prayer-Guide-for-Thailand-2023_spreads.pdf

Other links :

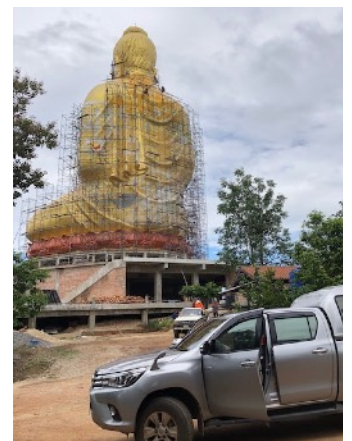
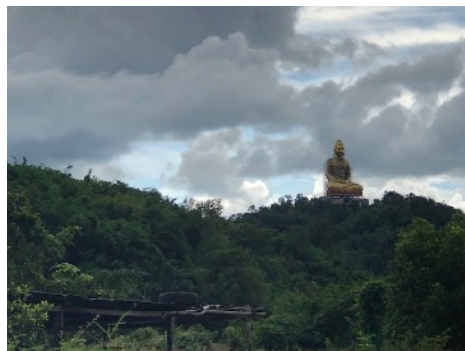
If you want a different format or to get all the links go to : [baptistmissionsaustralia.org](https://www.baptistmissionaustralia.org) /who are we/our teams/ intercultural teams/ethnic thai of thailand/ see the "prayer guide" down the page for all the links.

In our district there are several ethnic groups but most are still Buddhist. The main centre for Mon (a large ethnic group in Myanmar with people spread across central Thailand and closely related to the people of Cambodia) is in our district town. It has become fashionable, in Thailand, to erect large statues of Buddha or significant monks).

The Mon do things in a BIG way so their new construction is huge and been underway for a couple of years so far. It is visible from most of the township region.

You may be able to make out some small black dots around the neck of the statue - these are construction workers completing joining work - so you can see the scale!!!

We visit quite a number of families with disabled members in this community - Pray for opportunities for deeper conversations - very few Mon folk are Christians





Some months ago a mini-tornado hit town and a large tree crashed onto what used to be a missionary house - unoccupied at the time.

With no funds to repair, the local church association came asking for assistance. The rains set in and nothing had been done, so ongoing deterioration was bad. We did have some funds donated for, now, completed projects so we were able to help costs for temporary cover (bamboo frame and galvanized iron roofing) - giving them time to plan on a permanent solution.

Home visitation



Team visiting folk at home has a lots of benefits - Rung has Down's Syndrome and spent time at the special school - now a great help to Mum. And she give terrific hugs !!!!



We've walked many journeys with this family of a very disabled girl - dad's drug problems caused havoc. Now behind, they are rubber plantation workers, earning & bought land. They wanted to know more about Jesus we have talked about, but we had to wait for Sammy to speak their common language to explain gospel and we could show the Jesus movie in their language too



Jan teaches some of the Bible School students on Thursday afternoons. This is the "better" class but still fairly limited. Not sure how much they are learning but we have lots of fun. Pray for preparing for future ministry.



Jit has re-commenced his Men's Friendship group (ladies join last Friday of the month). COVID has still kept many from gathering but just starting to feel free. Pray for outreach bringing Christians and non-Christians together.



Some public holidays (our staff came to work) and some VERY wet weather gave a chance to get back to clearing the metal frames of a pile of old, totally un-usable wheelchairs to sell for scrap. We may not make much but saves storing junk !!



Dr Jen came from Singapore with his 3 daughters on June. Girls wanted refresher in making cinnamon rolls !!!
Pray as we work through details to merge Lanternlight with their Shalom Home Care ministry Foundation for ongoing long-term stability.



ChaiYarThit enjoys times to see bible story teaching - Language Recordings version - Jit translated and recorded the Thai version years ago. See the iPad case hanging on a coat hanger on the pole. He is learning heaps and has great memory skills. Pray for the others also hearing.

