

December 2019



## The Villandry Family

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Sending Church: Central Baptist Church in Grenada, MS

This month continued the thanksgiving season for the hill tribe people of Northern Thailand. What a blessing it was to attend these wonderful thanksgiving meetings with three more churches during the month of December. I would like to share a little information about each church so you may all pray for them as the Lord leads.

**SALIKAM CHURCH** This is a Lisu village which differs from the many Lahu villages we have been to since our arrival. The Lisu people have their own tribal language (although many also speak Thai), tribal dress, and their homes differ from that of the other hill tribes. I met the pastor, Duang Suang, during our very first trip to Thailand. When we arrived two years ago for their service, I opened the door and was immediately welcomed with a bear-hug from Bro Duang Suang. He left a lasting impression because he is always smiling and wearing the traditional Lisu tribal pants. Please pray for this brother. He travels over an hour-and-a-half to this village from his home village. This church has no building, and they meet in homes or in a tent pavilion as seen in the picture. Please pray for these brethren.



**PABONG NGAM CHURCH** This is also a Lisu village. The Lisu have actually been in Thailand for longer than the Lahu but seem to have kept many of their tribal traditions more than some of the other hill tribe people. The Pastor of this church is Bro. Matthew. He has taken on the great responsibility of teaching the church how to read and write Lisu so that they may read the word of God in their own mother tongue. During this thanksgiving service, there were several other young preachers and pastors in attendance. Pastor Matthew preached in Lisu and another preacher translated his message into Thai. Then Bro Paul and I both spoke using a Thai translator which was then translated into Lisu. With so many different languages spoken from village to village, translation and having the right interpreter can be a challenge. However, the Lord continues to provide! Please pray for this church and her pastor.



**PANG HOK (PA-HO) CHURCH** Bro Bill Lee visited Pang Hok for the first time in 1997. Shortly thereafter, a church was organized. There have been many faithful brothers and sisters in this church. They have a church building which is located on the tallest point on the mountain and has one of the best views in all of Thailand. Their pastor, Sabat, is a dear and faithful brother. He is very bright and has picked up English quite well. Every time I see him he knows more and more English. He and many in this church are gifted musicians. He is also very helpful in preachers training and appears to be a good leader. During the thanksgiving service, Bro Paul and I both took turns preaching. Four preachers from Myanmar came. One of them, Ephraim, interpreted for us in Lahu. Please pray for these preachers from Myanmar, for this church, and for her pastor.



## NEW OPPORTUNITY

In January, I will be starting interpreter training in Chiang Mai. There are two men who are interested in working as interpreters and would like more practice and instruction. Bro. Ai Donkham, our main interpreter, agreed to help them practice. Once a week we will get together and I will preach/teach and they will take turns interpreting. Bro Ai Donkham will help them with words and forming biblical terminology since they may not have certain theological terms in their language. There will also be another Lahu preacher there, and one or two others who just want to be taught more of God's word! I ask you to pray with me, that the Lord would grant wisdom to all involved and that He would be glorified.

## LANGUAGE LESSONS

Our family greatly appreciates all the prayers regarding language lessons. Though it has been a challenge, we do feel that the Lord has continued to bless our studies and we are making good progress. I begin level three in both conversation and reading & writing in January and Brittany and the kids will both move on to level two. Please continue to pray that the Lord would keep us focussed and provide more and more opportunities to practice what we are learning.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

At the end of the month we were able to go spend some time in Mae Ai with the Browns. While we were there we all met with the builder and discussed the progress being made on the ministry building. If all goes according to schedule the building should be done by the end of April. Downstairs will be the preacher's training center as well as a learning center for the children. Our family will live upstairs on the top floor so that we can be close to everything and help out with the many open doors and ministry opportunities. Please pray that construction will stay on schedule and the building can be completed in a timely manner!

For HIS Glory,

*Matthew Villandry*

All financial support for the Lord's work in Thailand may be sent to the following address:

Central Baptist Church  
c/o The Villandry Family

