

Good News From Keith & Sharon Higginbotham

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God desires all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth... 1 Tim 2:4

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EMPOWERED TO GO WHERE GOD SAYS GO

For the past 3 years, we have been blessed to have Pakistani asylum seekers be a part of our church, and 9 have graduated from Rhema Bible Training Center Thailand. Their testimonies about God working in their lives are very touching. They shared about how learning the Word of God corrected their ideas and beliefs about God, giving them a new perspective on the Christian life. The Word of God brought hope, and hope replaced despair; encouragement replaced discouragement, and confidence in God replaced doubt about God.

As the school term came to an end, some of the Pakistani students who completed their studies decided to return to Pakistan, the place from which they once fled. They shared with us how God called them to return to their home nation and to their own people to minister and to teach others what they learned from the Word of God while here in Bangkok.

Returning to Pakistan was no small decision for any of them. It meant giving up their pursuit of freedom, peace, and hope for a better future. In returning, they have an opportunity, now equipped and trained, to serve God and lead others in Pakistan to know Jesus Christ and receive salvation. Who knows that it was not for this purpose, to proclaim the Gospel truth in Pakistan, that God led them to be with us for a season at Rhema Thailand.



God's plan for their lives despite great hardship. Please keep them all in your prayers!

Their decision to leave now means that they will miss celebrating their graduation with their classmates in February (2018). So as part of their farewell, they donned cap and gowns for graduation photos while their fellow students cheered them on and prayed for them. They have been an inspiration to their fellow students, their Thai friends with whom they worship each week, and to us as we have watched them grow in faith and perseverance and move forward in

UNDAUNTED: BIG PLANS FOR A BIG PURPOSE



As we setup for the church anniversary this year, we were preparing, not for just another anniversary celebration, but for something bigger - the kickoff and presentation of building plans for the ministry's Bible school, church, and headquarters. In the past we've celebrated anniversaries on Sunday in conjunction with the church service; this year we scheduled it on Saturday as a stand-alone event, and anticipated 300 people invited from all over Thailand. Decorations were up, and food was served. We were ready to start. Then the electricity went off. The outside temperature was 93°F with a heat index 104, and the blazing sun quickly turned our church sanctuary into an oven. Within minutes people were drenched in sweat, and there was no way we could keep people in the building with the sweltering heat and no ventilation. We invited everyone to take as much food as possible, apologized to our out of town guests, and rescheduled for Sunday, October 1.



Then on Sunday October 1, we were in the middle of the service when a torrential rain came down. Unbeknownst to most of the people who were in the sanctuary, rain leaked through the roof in multiple locations. As quiet as Santa's helpers our team hustled to contain the damage. A portion of a hallway ceiling collapsed, another area on the verge of collapse was torn out to prevent it from falling on someone. Buckets, towels, and mops were out in full force, but we were not stopped.



All of this just adds to our determination that we are on the right path! We are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus! And we have a powerful future of ministry ahead of us.

We want to make greater strides forward in Thailand and Southeast Asia. As we continue to seek government approval for Rhema Thailand to be named legal owners of land donated to the ministry, we are moving forward with building plans for the church, Bible school, and ministry. While growth isn't about buildings, buildings house and enable growth. God put it in our hearts to touch every region and province of Thailand following the program *Changing Thailand* through two strategies, *Churches Planting Church* and *Rhema Care Groups*. Growth has already started with 68 people receiving Jesus through the 16 care groups that have started since we began 1 year ago. Two churches have also been started in the past year.



You can hear Keith's message at www.rhemathailand.org, click on "Download MP3", then click on "Rhema Church Bangkok 18th Anniversary". We look forward to sharing more information about this with you in the near future. In the mean while, please pray with us for the legalities of the land ownership to be completed quickly.

BKK-USA-BKK

This summer, we spent several weeks in the USA. First stop was Florida where Sharon's family lives. This year, we made Florida our official physical address by getting Florida driver's license and registering to vote. We also met with several area pastors to hear about what God is doing in the Orlando area and to share about what God is doing in Thailand and Southeast Asia. Next, we flew to the Midwest with 6 destinations in 11 days before flying to Portland and embarking for Bangkok. We thank God that everything went well and that we had no trouble on the road or in the air. It was so nice to see so many people along the way who help us through their prayers and support. We are very grateful, thank you!

