

The Hennigs Missions in Kanchanaburi Province Thailand

Newsletter 01 – 04 2023

Dear friends and prayer partners,

Thank you for your interest, your prayers and your gifts. Since the end of November, we have had a Sabbatical year here, which we are using to focus more on God and His concerns. So now we want to give a short interim report of what particularly moves us during this time.

In the meantime, we are experiencing the hottest time of the year here. We have experienced days that even the Thais felt very hot and in which we could only lie on the bed and read something despite the fan. In the meantime there were already the first heavy rains, which gave us a welcome cooling in between. We expect the rainy season in the next months, where it will rain frequently and the temperatures will be more bearable.

Our Sabbatical Year

After Reiner's hospital stay until November 24, 2022, we began our sabbatical year in which we would rest our ministries for our organization CTTM for one year. We wanted to use this time to recover and refocus on God, and felt that we should spend this time in Thailand. After we wrote and sent our long overdue newsletter to our friends and received the extension of our visas for another year, friends provided us with a wheelchair accessible room that we were able to renovate and design for ourselves, and for which we were also able to purchase an electrically operated nursing bed for Christine. We can use this room as often as we like. It is located in the countryside in the green with a very beautiful view of the valley. From our house, this quarter can be reached by car in just under an hour. We do not have a computer there and it is an excellent opportunity to retreat and have undisturbed time for ourselves and for God.

First results

1) Worship

We were able to spend 2 weeks on vacation in our new quarters. Some things became very clear to us: "The hour is coming, and it is already now, for the true worshippers to worship God in spirit and truth. And also the Father is looking for those who worship Him in this way... God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth:" (John 4:23 and 24) We must take time to look at God and His being and worship Him for who He is, praise Him for what He has done and is doing, and thank Him for all that He has given and is giving us.

2) Take God seriously

We live in a situation where man and his well-being and goals are the focus. God is welcome where He contributes something to our well-being, but words about God's judgment are hardly taken seriously. That, for example, the estimated 100,000 innocent children who are killed in the womb every year in Germany, and who have accumulated over the decades to an estimated 5 million deaths, lead to a judgment of God, plays practically no role at all in today's thinking. Even when it comes to the question of how sexuality should be thought about and lived, people's feelings are considered a decisive criterion today, while God's view on this is largely seen as irrelevant. Reverence for the living God, from whom everything comes, who sustains everything in existence, toward whom everything runs and before whom, as judge, everyone will have to answer, has largely been lost, even in the Christian communities we know. When we sing hymns of praise in worship, is it first about our mood, or is it about giving Almighty God the glory He deserves? How important is God to us, really, when we do things for Him? Do we want God to bless what we do, or are we really willing to acknowledge Jesus as Lord and do what He really wants us to do? If what we do for God is more important to us than God Himself, something is fundamentally wrong. God must be more important to us than all our relationships, than everything we have and everything we intend to do. In 1945, Japan surrendered. For a few years then, it was extremely open to the gospel. How many Christians at that time were willing to give up their own program to be sent as missionaries to this former enemy country? A few years later, the great openness was over again, and now Japan is again a very difficult mission field: how many opportunities were missed because Christians were not willing to respond to God's sometimes very quiet requests! We urgently need times when we are willing to let go of everything and be there for God without our own purpose.

3) Receive from God

We must consider what help God has in store for us now, so that we can live properly as His servants and in a way that is truly pleasing to Him. We must take into account that Jesus Christ was made for us for wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption (1 Cor. 1:30) and that the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Rom. 5,5) The danger is so great that we instead try to live our Christianity by our own efforts and thereby ultimately produce only an inadequate copy of what God actually wants to give.

4) Look at what remains

We need a view of our eternal life and of the other blessings of God that Jesus has already acquired for us, but which will only become visible in the future. These include the eternal close fellowship with God the Father, the fact that we have already been given glory together with Jesus through Jesus (Rom. 8, 30) and that we are already sitting together with Jesus on His throne in heaven (Eph. 2, 6). In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, it becomes clear how important the prayers of

the saints are even now for what God wants to do. Jesus went to the Father to prepare a dwelling place for all His disciples. (Joh. 14, 2 - 3) Our life here on earth is thus in a much broader and bigger and better context than just our earthly life here. Our life here on earth is a place where we can learn to trust God and to use all that God offers us as help Thus we practice to go with God all the way through thick and thin, trusting in God. But we are going towards a future full of light, life, love and glory. We learn to let go of everything here on earth and to be given the fullness of God exactly in this. So we go with joy towards the day when we will leave our earthly life and finally see all that we have believed. We need the Holy Spirit to deeply shape our lives through the hope that is ours as Christians.

Songs with the eternity perspective have become very important to us. We very much appreciate songs by Simon Khorolskiy, a singer from the USA, who comes from Russian parents and sings in Russian. We discovered him in Youtube on the Internet.

5) Practical steps

a) Every workday, in between, we plan to step out of the day's business and be there for God and worship Him.

b) We plan to retreat to our new quarters about 1 week per month to rest and refocus on God.

c) We have taken over our website, which was previously sponsored by someone else. We have to set it up again, so it is out of order at the moment. We plan to incorporate more Christian preaching there. We plan to write articles that are as short and understandable as possible, and on the other hand, to bring more detailed and in-depth explanations on each topic.

d) In all our own planning, we want to be basically ready for everything that God desires for our lives, even if it is unconventional ways, and it is precisely for this that we want to be very open, especially in our Sabbath year. We are very dependent on God's guidance, insight and strength in this. We expect that the challenges from God will become greater and greater in the future and will seem more and more impossible, but that God will give us everything we will need for our assignments and more than enough for our lives.

Support for poor people

We continue to support poor people in our village and surrounding area, which continues to a lesser extent than before. The forwarding of donations to India, Pakistan and Bangla Desh also continues. However, the worldwide economic crisis means that some of our donors are no longer able to send us anything because of the increased budgetary costs. Therefore, Christine cannot fulfill many additional requests for help. Christine had to have long conversations with many of the recipients. The massive price increases lead in the 3rd world to the fact that the survival for very many poor becomes more and more difficult. In Pakistan, flour has become so expensive that the poor in the country can no longer afford it. This flour

is used in the household to make bread patties, which are one of the most important staple foods. The government organized free distribution of flour to the poor. However, a number of poor people did not survive standing in the queue in temperatures far above 40 °C.

About our health

It seems that the physical strength of both of us has diminished lately, with Christine more than with Reiner, that our condition is otherwise reasonably stable. Mentally, however, we seem to have become stronger, and both of us have never before in our lives been as free as we are now.

Sunday Services

Except for one time in September 2022, no worshipers came to our Sunday service. We then often have a gathering of two together with God during this time. In the meantime we are every 14 days in the Noël church, which belongs to a small center of YWAM Thailand. At the request of the church leaders there, we take turns preaching.

We wish you God's protection and blessings and send our warmest greetings from Lum Sum

Yours in Christ Jesus

Christine und Reiner Hennig

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**** Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version) ****