

**The Hennigs
Missions in Kanchanaburi Province
Thailand**

Newsletter 07- 08 2021

Dear friends and prayer partners,

Thank you for your interest, your prayers and your gifts. The rainy season brought us now often a number of strong rainfalls and also a bit lower temperatures. On sunny days with no rainfall, however, the temperatures remain quite high.

A. Requirements from outside

Measures to combat the spread of the global disease had been significantly tightened, in some cases at very short notice. For months it has been impossible to leave our province. Meetings of more than 5 people were forbidden, restaurants were closed, and shopping trips to our provincial capital were only possible with special permission. Our property is located on state road 323, and on the other side of the road is a settlement of 10 households that were under complete house arrest for 14 days. Since all of our regular worshipers come from this settlement, this naturally affected us as well. People there lost their jobs because their employers feared the contagion from their employees and now sat at home without the prospect of getting a job again. A family of seven was thus completely stranded, and their only source of income was that we let a married daughter of theirs work for us a few hours a week for a day wage, thus relieving Christine. Another mother from there visited her mother in Northeast Thailand and now she cannot travel back to her children for months. We also let one of her daughters work for us a few hours a week as a help in the household and thus earn some money. When we go shopping in our provincial capital Kanchanaburi, we see how one store after the other has to give up. The surprising and very short-term introductions of new tightenings make longer-term planning completely impossible. Several times we were forced to make a surprise trip to Kanchanaburi and to bring forward a bulk purchase for the poor and for us to the afternoon or the next morning, because we could not know how far on the originally planned date such a purchase would be possible at all. Fortunately, we were able to make all our necessary purchases and continue to provide for the poor we had been supporting. Through our intensive contacts to India and Pakistan we get to know what a catastrophic impact the current situation has on the poor there.

B. Christine

1. The help for the poor goes on.

The supply of the poor in our village is now mainly done by Khun O and Khun Fon,

who in consultation with Christine now independently buy and deliver the relief supplies. Since there are far too few jobs in our village due to the crisis, we need new ideas, but above all the willingness of the people here to commit themselves to a project in the long term and not throw in the towel after two attempts. With her new wheelchair, Christine can work very well, albeit with reduced strength, on the computer and forward donations. One of the main tasks in this situation is to save people from starvation. In this situation, especially a lot of baby food is needed in India, because many mothers cannot give enough breast milk at the moment due to their poor nutrition. Families whose homes had collapsed due to storms during the rainy season were able to get a new roof over their heads. A number of pastors had recently died in India as a result of the crisis. They left widows and children without provisions. For 10 of these widows sewing machines could be procured, so that these widows have the possibility to feed themselves and their children by their own work. Since the beginning of July, through donations made especially for this purpose, 4 households with a total of 4 adults and 9 children could be freed from debt bondage in Pakistan. Larger special projects are still waiting for donors: On the one hand, a man is to be given the opportunity to feed himself and his family as a driver of a rickshaw, the small cab customary in the country (price 1600 €). On the other hand, a settlement of about 3000 people will be given access to clean drinking water through a drinking water plant (2880 €).

2. New bedroom, new office

Christine's physical strength has greatly diminished after what we suspect was her 4th heart attack in November. 23 years of work in geriatric care have damaged her spine, and for years she has had problems with her right knee, so that she can no longer walk long distances. In addition, she had been having severe pain in her right leg for some time when she had to walk and stand. Therefore we had bought her a good and stable wheelchair with electric drive, where she can put up the diseased right leg, which then only hurt a little. She is too weak to propel the wheelchair with the strength of her arms, and the ability to adjust the steepness of the backrest and the position of the supports for the lower legs at the touch of a button using electric motors are an enormous relief for her.

She no longer sees herself in a position to take care of guests the way she used to. In addition, due to the measures, we have not had any guests in our guest house, the small house that stands next to our main house on our property, for a year and a half, and we do not know when and if any guests will come at all due to the measures. In the 8 square meters where we had set up Christine's bedroom and office room, it was relatively cumbersome to leave this room with a wheelchair and still quite cramped. Therefore, on July 24, we decided that Christine would move into the small house and one of the two rooms of 12 square meters each would become her bedroom and the other her office space. When we were able to rent this house in 2015, a lot had to be rebuilt in it. At that time, we clearly felt that we should remodel it to be suitable for wheelchair users, although this greatly increased the cost. At the time, we didn't know why we should build a wheelchair

accessible home because we didn't know anyone else who would visit us in a wheelchair except for one woman, and that woman never came. In retrospect, we suspect that God had our situation in mind even then and lovingly planned ahead for us. The barrier-free design of this house and the very spacious toilet and shower are a huge relief for Christine, and the air there is much better than in her previous quarters. We decided to have a new internet connection put in her office and to protect the covered area of the house behind the rooms from cats and flies with suitable wire mesh. We now have our breakfast and dinner together there. Moving and redesigning then kept us busy for 3 weeks.

A new tiling of the wet room on the ground floor of our main house was pending, and the new tiles were laid in such a way that the access is now without a step and Christine can also enter this wet room with her wheelchair without any difficulties.

3. Wound on the right lower leg

A severely festering wound had developed on Christine's lower right leg. As a trained nurse for the elderly, Christine had learned how to clean and dress such wounds. However, when dead areas appeared there that had to be removed, the wound was so painful that Christine was no longer able to do so and also did not want to let Reiner touch it. So we decided to go to a hospital in Kanchanaburi and have this wound treated there. The doctor examined the wound, cut away the dead parts and took a swab from the wound which was examined in the laboratory. This examination showed that the wound was infected by a certain bacterium, and it found the antibiotics that can effectively fight it. For 6 days Christine had to be taken to the clinic over 40 km every day so that her wound could be cleaned and dressed and she could receive an infusion. Afterwards, she had to travel there several more times to have the wound cleaned and dressed. Each of these trips meant a time commitment of at least 4 hours for us and thus took up a great deal of our time and energy. We succeeded in defeating the pathogen and the inflammation completely, so that it now no longer causes pain. The healing of the wound is going very well, but it will take a few more days until the skin in this area is closed again and the wound does not need to be bandaged. However, problems in the spine, hip and right knee mean that even now Christine cannot stand or walk for more than half an hour in the best case.

4. Cats with cat flu

One of our male cats hardly ate and deteriorated visibly, and another one had a rhinitis. Therefore, we decided to bring both animals for examination to a veterinary clinic in Kanchanaburi, with which we had already had very good experiences. It turned out that both cats had the cat flu. One of them had such a strong inflammation in his mouth and gums that it was very painful to eat. We had to leave him in the animal hospital for in-patient treatment, where he is now eating well again. The other cat got an infusion there, but then we could take him home again. On the following two days Reiner had to take him by bus to the animal hospital for

infusion. The treatment worked so well for him that the infusions could be discontinued and the medicine can now be given at home in the form of pills. Since cat flu is contagious, we were advised to keep him in quarantine away from our other cats. So now the large locked room in house 3 behind Christine's bedroom and office is his quarters for the time of his quarantine and will remain so for at least another week. Since this cat is enormously lively and spurdy despite his infection and the freshly planted flowers in this area are not up to the temperament of this animal, we will probably have to replace them again after the end of quarantine. This is not always easy for Christine. We hope that then both cats will be able to live a normal life with our other house cats again.

Reiner

Healthwise he is doing well, but he notices that he now has noticeably less strength than before. He wrote, translated and sent the last newsletter and is writing, translating and sending this newsletter. The leader of our organization CTTM asked Reiner to write something about the Church of Jesus Christ in the new situation, and he was able to finish that. He also wrote the enclosed reflection on the enemies of the cross of Christ, a subject that is of great concern to both of us. He preached some sermons on Sunday. Christine's move and daily trips to the hospital and the trips to the veterinary hospital did not leave him much time or strength for anything else. So he could not yet take care of our planned publishing work. Because of the measures, the planned meeting of the foundation board to prepare our application for recognition of our foundation did not yet take place.

Prayer

We are very grateful to God:

- that God helps us greatly to preach His Word,
- that we are provided with everything we need,
- that people entrust us with money so that we can help others,
- that a larger number of people could be saved from starvation as a result,
- that further persons were ransomed from debt bondage
- for Christine's new good wheelchair, for Christine's new quarters and for the fast progress of the healing of Christine's leg wound.

We ask God:

- For clear guidance from God on how to proceed now,
- for a timely extension of Reiner's work permit and our visas,
- that more people in our village come to faith in Jesus Christ and grow in faith,
- for supernatural provision for our poor brothers and sisters in the 3rd world,

- that the Body of Christ may know what the hour has come to and prepare for what is needed,
- that the church of Jesus learns to use the helps that God offers her,
- that the preparation of the foundation and the publishing now starts again, and that God guides us in this and we get everything we need for it

We wish you God's protection and His blessings during the next weeks and send you warm greetings from Lum Sum

Yours sincerely

Christine and Reiner Hennig

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In case someone has accidentally transferred money to our old account at ING-DiBa: We have and continue to use it for us.

Christine supports needy people in India and Pakistan (we know most of their leaders and many of them personally) and students in Nepal. These donations reach the recipient 100% because we pay the transfer costs and administrative expenses ourselves. Christine is happy to answer any further questions by email at cmhennig23@yahoo.com.

Enemies of the Cross of Christ

In his farewell letter to the church in Philippi, the church that was closest to him, Paul writes as a legacy some things that seem very important to him. There we read, "For many lead their lives as I have often told you, but now say with tears, the enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose shame is their honor, who are earthly minded." (Phil. 3, 18 - 19) At first, these verses do not seem to concern us, because we usually associate the earthly mind with the addiction to power, money and sex. But if we look more closely, it turns out that the earthly mind means that we are focused on what is on earth, and that our goals are therefore also earthly. These can also be goals in the kingdom of God, if we want our church to grow, to win many for Jesus here on earth and to build good and stable churches. All this is not wrong, but if it leads us to lose sight of God and that our service for God becomes more important than God Himself, we will experience a bad surprise one day. Whoever does not have the eternal goal in mind will not make it if the path in following Jesus here goes into disgrace, suffering and death and everything can be taken away from us. Jesus was willing to lose His honor here on earth because He knew that God would exalt Him and bring Him to glory. Whoever follows Jesus knows that God will eventually give Him all the honor and recognition He deserves. Therefore, he does not need to fight for it here on earth; he seeks God's honor and not his own. In the eyes of God, it is a disgrace if we seek our own glory and do things so that we will be regarded and respected by people. Then, when the glory of God will be visible to all, everyone, including ourselves, will see our shame. If our belly is our god, this means that for us our well-being is what ultimately determines us. This then also leads to the fact that we are only willing to accept from God what is pleasant to us and are no longer open to warnings and admonitions from God. In the end, it is then no longer God who has the last word, but we, and thus we have made ourselves and our well-being into God. This world and everything in it will pass away. With it also everything what we have built up from our own forces in this world will perish. And what a catastrophe it will be when we think we are good servants in the kingdom of God and Jesus has to tell us, "I do not know you," and then we end up in damnation instead of heaven!

God has something much better for us. To Nicodemus, who as a leader of the Pharisees was a person who lived a very high moral life compared to others, Jesus said "You must be born anew by God through water and the Spirit."

(according to John 3:3 and 5) Water here stands for a radical turning away from the old and perverse way and a surrender to God. The Holy Spirit then makes us children of God. Jesus was the firstborn of many brethren. This means that every Christian has the same possibilities as Jesus had when He walked on earth: Jesus was fully human, who could get tired, and who experienced situations where it became too much for Him. Jesus knew that He could not do anything on His own, but was completely dependent on His Father in heaven in everything and could only do what He saw the Father doing at that moment. (Joh. 5, 19) Thus also our new life in Jesus is now dependent on God. He received everything from His Father. Jesus was very aware of His special mission at that time and its limitation: "I am sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Mt. 15:24) He was willing to let go of everything to save a lost world. Jesus' way is also our way. (see Phil. 2,5 - 11)

Life as a Christian means:

- 1) My past guilt is crossed out and I may continue to live unburdened by it as a beloved child of God.
- 2) I may stand in a person-to-person love relationship with the God who created the entire universe, who now sustains it, who sees everything and understands everything, and whose essence is love.
- 3) God gives us a new life that we become able to want and do what God wants.
- 4) We are so closely involved in the life of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, that we become partakers of His divine nature (2 Pet 1:4) and members of His body. Just as God is the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, who are different and yet one, God the Son also consists of Jesus, the Head, and all the members of His Body. Because this is a relationship of love, love is what holds it together, not compulsion, and thus in it all obedience is voluntary.
- 5) Together with Jesus, we have already received a share in His glory, His wonderful radiance of light, His beauty and His light. (Rom. 8, 30) Where this glory becomes fully visible, it is overwhelming. In the invisible world it is already visible, only in this world it is still hidden from our eyes. Our life with Christ is still hidden in God. But when Christ will be visibly revealed to all in this world, we will also be revealed together with Him in glory. At that moment, however, nothing new will be added, but only what has long been present in heaven before will be revealed.
- 6) God has seated us together with Jesus in heaven on the throne at His right hand, (Eph. 2, 6) high above all powers and authorities. (Eph. 1, 20 - 22) All

authority in heaven and on earth is already given to us. This position in heaven is higher than all positions of power that other people or even Satan can offer us.

Our life and service together with Jesus is incomparably much greater, higher and more comprehensive than anything we can think up for ourselves. But just as the work of Jesus is mostly hidden from our eyes today, our being in Christ and our service in its full dimension is also mostly hidden from human eyes. God wants our service to be voluntary and in love, and therefore He only expects trust from us, and He testifies Himself to us in such a way that this trust is possible for us, and so we walk the path with Him, and so we say yes to His gifts again and again and follow His guidance. For us it is only a matter of remaining in the undisturbed relationship with Jesus, and then Jesus' word applies: "I am the vine, you are the branches, and my Father is the vine dresser. He who abides in Me and I in him bears much fruit." (Jn. 15:5) Just as an apple tree does not have to strain to bear fruit, but bears fruit because that is its nature, so too does Jesus' presence in our lives affect us in such a way that we are transformed and can do what is right, growing far beyond our natural ability. "Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit." (John 15:2) Thus, God allows temptations, afflictions and sufferings in our lives to the point that we sometimes have the impression that it is beyond our strength. But these things are necessary for the God-given glory to unfold in our lives. "The momentary, small measure of afflictions produces in excess an overwhelming measure of glory for us who look not to the visible but to the invisible. For the visible is transitory, but the invisible is eternal." (2 Cor. 4: 17 - 18) In Romans chapter 8, verses 35-37, Paul lists a whole series of difficulties and hardships that can befall us, but then states that nothing and no one can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus, and therefore we are overwhelmingly victorious in it. In Rom. 8:28 Paul wrote, "But we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him." The path of the disciple of Jesus therefore necessarily goes through the cross here on earth to glory. Jesus Himself speaks very clearly of this : "Anyone who does not renounce all that he has cannot be My disciple." (Lk. 14, 33) "Whoever does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." (Mt. 10, 38 - 39).

Since following Jesus is voluntary, however, we have the opportunity to step out of our close connection with Jesus at any time. This happens easily especially when we lose sight of our heavenly perspective and get caught up in what is

visible now and lose sight of the fact that God can help us through everything. However, we then no longer bear the fruit that we could actually bear with God without any problems, and Jesus' word then applies to us: "Without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he withers and is removed like a (useless) branch on the vine, which is gathered and thrown into the fire, and he burns up." (Jn. 15: 5 - 6) Therefore, all Christian activities done without the connection with Jesus, however splendid and blessed they may look, are nothing in the eyes of God, and those who do them end up in hell.

However, if we do not lose sight of the eternal perspective of God, we know that one day Jesus will visibly come to this earth and we will be revealed with Him in glory. The whole creature, which now suffers so much from corruption and death, is waiting full of longing for this moment, because then the reign of sin and death will be broken and life and righteousness will reign. (Rom. 8, 19 - 22) Since the following of Jesus is voluntary, the body of Christ as a whole was not ready for it, but had largely made itself at home on earth instead of making itself completely available to God. God, the angels, the perfected righteous, and all of creation are waiting so eagerly for the Body of Christ to finally come into its full position so that the enemy can finally be disempowered. That is why it is so important that at least we now become willing to go all the way with God so that God can finally do what He has wanted to do for so long. The result will then be truly glorious.

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Author's note: This text attempts to present certain aspects of the New Testament teachings as clearly and comprehensibly as possible. However, it does not claim to bring anything original, new or unprecedented. In writing it, the author used no literature other than the Greek New Testament and a concordance for the Greek text and one for the German Bible. However, the author has lived consciously as a Christian for over 50 years and has heard much preaching and read many things during this time, which then also flowed into this text. Literal quotations from the New Testament were translated from the Greek by the author himself. This text and our newsletter it was sent out with were written in German and translated with the help of DeepL for Windows (www.deepl.com).