

**The Hennigs
Missions in Kanchanaburi Province
Thailand**

Newsletter 01 2020

Dear friends and prayer partners,

thank you for your interest, your prayers and your gifts. We still have the cold season here in Thailand, and the nights are not yet very warm. During the day, however, we experience very hot days again, for example today shortly before 4 o'clock in the afternoon with 35 °C in the shadow.

Christmas

The days leading up to Christmas were mainly determined by sending our last info letter. On 24. 12. the last emails were sent. So there was no Christmas spirit, especially since the Christmassy winter weather was not to be thought of. After all we had a beautifully decorated Advent wreath made of plastic, which did not shed needles the whole time.

On December 25th we were invited to the Christmas party of YWAM at Arun and Paeng, which was arranged by a group of Koreans who now work with YWAM in Kanchanaburi. There were some very nice encounters.

Christine's sister-in-law died.

On December 26th we experienced a very special Christmas surprise: Regina, the wife of Christine's brother, had a serious stroke on December 24th, after which she was in a coma. On 28 December we were informed that she was now dying. We then decided that Christine should fly there in this extraordinary situation, but received the immediate reply that Christine was not wanted there in this situation and therefore could not be present at the funeral of her sister-in-law.. This took her hard and depresses her to this day. She has not yet got over it.

State children's day at the local primary school

Thailand officially celebrates the state Children's Day on 10 January. Therefore there is a festive morning at our local school with speeches, award ceremony and dance performances of individual classes. In total about 500 people came. We were there again this year. At the beginning we were invited to sit in places of honour next to the mayor in the front row during the speeches and award ceremonies. We were also asked to stand among the teachers when a group photo was taken by the teachers. We are still considered teachers by the school management and are

addressed accordingly, even though we only taught at the school in 2012 - 2014. Afterwards there was a meal offer. Parents and other adults offered food, sweets and drinks, and we had each bought 2 large plastic baskets of clementines and apples and 15 large watermelons. Clementines and apples were mostly taken in one piece, while Reiner was mainly busy cutting the watermelons into pieces. There were a number of pleasant encounters. We had the impression that we were welcome there.

Travel to Pakistan

On prayer we decided to travel to Pakistan again, we will be fly there from 12 February to 13 March and booked the flight already. Our friends in Pakistan have been waiting for us for a long time. This time it is planned that we will meet some new churches there. During our absence someone will stay in our house and look after it. Therefore we had to drive once to Bangkok to apply for our visas at the Pakistani embassy and again a few days later to pick them up again. The issuing of the visas went without any problems, although Christine still has a valid visa for India in her passport.

Christine at a women's conference in North India

Christine will be part of a team from Singapore, Germany and Australia from 27 March to 2 April to lead a women's conference in Northern India to encourage and support Christian women leaders and pastors there. It will have to be determined at which other women's conferences Christine will be involved this year.

Foundation

After half a year the responsible official in our district (Amphoe) had started to process the application for recognition of our foundation. The question of whether foreigners may be director and deputy director of the Foundation Board was raised, but was then answered in the affirmative by the responsible office in the Ministry of the Interior upon request. So we now hope that the further processing of our application will proceed swiftly.

We are allowed to stay in our house.

Since the plans to sell our house and land didn't succeed, we can continue to live in our House 2 and enjoy our gardens, which currently provide us with a large harvest of lettuce and vegetables, from which the poor in the village also benefit greatly.

Reiner's actions in connection with CTTM have not yet been clarified.

Reiner had agreed to join the team that conducts the training for pastors and missionaries at CTTM and to hold conferences for men together with another brother. These teams have not yet met.

Our newsletter is now also published in Dutch.

As we have some very dear and faithful friends in the Netherlands, we thought about writing our info letter in Dutch as well. This was made possible by using the DEEPL program (www.deepl.com), which provides us with translations that require very little post-processing.

Prayer

We give thanks to God for:

- a nice outreach on Children's Day at our local primary school,
- that we got our visas for Pakistan without any problems and could already book and pay the return flight,
- that we can continue to live in our house 2 and the land and house 3 is still available to us,

We ask God:

- that more people in our village come to faith in Jesus Christ and grow in faith,
- for a good planning and preparation of our services in 2020,
- for preserving our health, so that we have the strength to do what we should,
- for a speedy recognition of our foundation,
- that on our journey to Pakistan happens what God wants and that our brothers and sisters there are strengthened,
- for a very good and protected women's conference with Christine in North India.

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

Yours sincerely

Christine und Reiner Hennig

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<p><u>Bank Account in Thailand:</u></p> <p>MR. REINER GEORG DR HENNIG AND MRS. CHRISTINE MARGARETE HENNIG</p> <p>Account nr.: 221-2-94827-9</p> <p>Branch: Kanchanaburi</p> <p>Bank: Kasikornbank</p>	<p>MR. REINER GEORG DR HENNIG AND MRS. CHRISTINE MARGARETE HENNIG</p> <p>เลขที่บัญชี 221-2-94827-9</p> <p>สาขา กาญจนบุรี ธนาคารกสิกรไทย</p>

We continue to use our old bank account at ING-DiBa, but are not allowed to receive on it money for others.

Christine supports persons in need in India and Pakistan (we know most of their leaders and many of them personally). These donations will arrive at their destination by 100%, as we pay the expenses for money transfer and administration. For more information please contact Christine under cmhennig23@yahoo.com.

State children's day at our local primary school



Motto of the Children's Day 2020: The children of Thailand commit themselves anew to preserve the unity of the state and to know the duties of the Thai people.



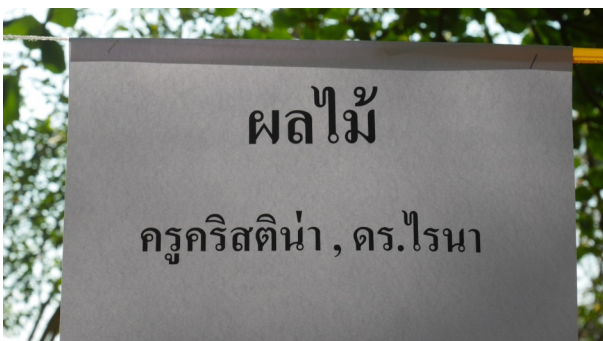
Performances in the large hall



Many offered food and drink.



Our employee Khun Fon fried bananas.



Fruit: teacher Christine, Dr. Reiner



Pure cut watermelon.

Sanatorium and orphanage for cats



In front of our house there was a kitten without a mother, that was very shy, and was almost fur and bones only . We could finally take it in and brought it to the veterinary clinic.



With care, medicine and plenty of food our Lissy is now very lively and enterprising.



Lissy on Christine's bed.

The other two tomcats that we had taken in are now so strong that they can stay outside our house. Grigio, who had had a serious leg injury before, is now so strong that he was able to put all the other tomcats to flight.



2 weeks ago, our household help brought us a kitten that had been hit by a car on our main road and was in severe pain. An owner could not be identified. We also took this kitten in. In the veterinary clinic we found out that nothing was injured except the tail, but since the tail is broken at the root, there is no other possibility than to remove it surgically. In the meantime our Mitzi is very lively, curious and strong-willed, but unfortunately not yet house-trained.

Hope

What is the Christian hope?

Hope is the joyful expectation that something good will happen in the future, or that a good state of affairs will exist. Christian hope reckons that Jesus Christ, to whom all authority in heaven and on earth has already been given, will put everything in order and will transform and make our lives glorious. In particular, death will never again be able to separate us from the love of God and we will continue to live with God for all time. And so we also believe that the law of coming into being and passing away will be abolished, that all suffering will end and that all injustice will finally be removed, even if this is not yet possible in this life on earth. "We believe in a new heaven and a new earth in which justice dwells." (2. Petr. 3, 13) We will not sink or rise in a kind of All-Soul, but we will continue forever as loved and loving persons, embraced and carried by the love of Almighty God. For the one who has this hope, it is something that gives peace and serenity to our life here on earth and a wonderful goal towards which he lives.

This Christian hope has become rare in the West.

But in Christianity today in the West this hope has become rare. Although it is still written in the creed, it no longer shapes the everyday life and goals of many. What is important then is what I can have and achieve in this world. It is important that God helps us to live well as Christians today and to become happy, and we wish that our churches become large and strong. But a parish priest reported that in one of the most pious cities in Germany, in 10 years of service in the parish office, he met only 2 people who were looking forward to eternity with God, while the normal reaction was: "Oh, that the Lord would let me stay with my loved ones just one year longer!" A great many church programs are directed only towards this earthly existence, and the reputation in this world often plays an extremely important role.

Why is that wrong?

Paul writes in the Epistle to the Philippians: "There are many of whom I have often spoken to you about, but now I speak to you in tears, the enemies of the cross of Christ, whose God is their bodily well-being ("their belly"), whose honor consists in what is a disgrace (before God), and who are oriented towards earthly things." About them Paul writes: "Their end is destruction." (Phil. 3, 18.19) A characteristic of our life here on earth is that we will have to give up everything we have one day, at the latest at our physical death. This means that at that time at the latest I will lose everything I have built up. But even worse is the word of Jesus: "He who does not renounce all that he has, cannot be my disciple." (Lk. 14, 33) and "Whoever does not take his cross and follow with him is not worthy of me." (Mt. 10, 38) In ancient times, the cross stands for the cruelest and most shameful method of execution. This means that someone who is not prepared to enter into suffering,

shame and death with Jesus, where everything is taken away from him, cannot be a disciple of Jesus, and so, if he still thinks he is a Christian, he is living in huge and deadly illusions that will be revealed at the latest when he stands before God, his Judge. And since Jesus says: "Without me you can do nothing." (Joh. 15,5), nothing of his whole life's work will be able to stand, and because he cannot bear the presence of the holy God, he will end up in the only place where he does not need to see God, namely hell. Without the heavenly perspective and without the power of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible to withstand more severe attacks and temptations and above all a persecution of Christians, which according to Jesus' words (Jn 15:18-21) every one of His disciples has to expect.

How can I get Christian hope then?

In his first letter to the Thessalonians Paul praises the work of faith, the efforts of love and the steadfast perseverance of this church in the hope of our Lord Jesus. (1 Thess. 1, 3). Later he writes in the same letter "lest you be sad like the others who have no hope." (1 Thess. 4, 13). In 1 Cor. 13, 13 Paul writes: "But now faith, love and hope remain". Obviously he assumes that hope is normal for the church, and obviously something is deeply wrong when hope is hardly or not at all present in a church. So the first step seems to be to recognize that hope is missing and to ask the Holy Spirit for His help.

The next step is surely that I decide not to block the work of God in me and through me by

- 1) not being willing to confess my guilt and make amends, as far as I can, for the damage I have caused,
- 2) not being willing to forgive all those who have been guilty of hurting, threatening and harming me, and
- 3) by not being ready to let God be the Lord of my life

God offers those who are willing to walk with Him everything they need for a new life: forgiveness of our past guilt and a new life where the Holy Spirit dwells in us and transforms our lives. God, the Holy Spirit, then consoles, guides, warns and admonishes us and makes us understand what we already have in Jesus and what we can have now and what we can have in the future. We only need to trust in God and do what He tells us and we will experience that our life becomes new. The trust that God is good and that He means well with us, that no need is too great and no problem too difficult, and that He will bring everything to a good end, is then also the basis of our hope, and we experience that the Holy Spirit convinces us profoundly that this is true, even if we do not see anything or only little of it at the moment. This then leads to the fact that it is not we who produce our hope and talk ourselves into it, but that this hope is alive in us and carries us, regardless of our current situation and our current feelings.

Paul shows in the letter to the Romans, chapter 5, 3 - 4 a way to hope: If we do not

evade the tribulations that God has brought upon us, but rather get through them, we will become tried and tested and stable, and this testing will then give rise to hope, and this hope will not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Christian hope is thus a central part of our personal relationship with God, who is person and loves us as persons.

Christ in you, the hope of glory

The deepest reason for hope, however, is not our conviction that God is good and faithful, but the fact that Jesus Christ Himself, who has gone through all the misery and humiliation of man and has now received from God all the power and authority, has decided to share His life and position with us. The mighty power by which God raised Jesus from the dead and exalted Him above everything else is now also at work in us, the believers. Jesus can say of Himself: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live, and the one who lives and believes in Me will never die again in eternity". (Joh. 11, 25 - 26) About our life as Christians it says: "For you have not received a spirit of bondage, that you should fear again, but a spirit of establishment in the full rights of the Son, in which we call Abba, Father. The Spirit Himself testifies to our spirit that we are God's children. If we are children, we are also heirs, that is, God's heirs and co-heirs with Christ, if we suffer with Him, that we may receive glory with Him also". (Rom. 8, 15 - 17) In 2. Cor. 4, 17 we even read: "The present small measure of tribulation causes a far greater weight of glory for us, who do not see the visible, but the invisible. For the visible is present, but the invisible is eternal." God therefore now imposes suffering on us so that we can receive all the more glory. This is why Paul can also write that all things work together for the good of those who love God (Rom 8:28), although he also knows from his own experience that the paths with God can lead to suffering. But he knows that nothing of all the hardships can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus. (Rom. 8, 35 - 39).

So we are already in heaven with Christ, and have a share in His power and glory, even though none of this is yet to be seen on earth. Invisibly, the preparation and equipping of those who live with Jesus is now underway, and their entirety is called the Body of Christ or the Bride of Christ. Jesus' work now is to make this His church glorious, without spot or wrinkle, but holy and blameless. (Eph 5:27) When the church is ready, Jesus will appear visibly to all the world in His glory, and we will be revealed with Him in glory. Then nothing new will happen in the church, but only that which is already there will become visible. But the whole of creation is waiting anxiously for this moment when it will then be freed from the reign of destruction. (Rom. 8, 19 - 22)

What does Christian hope mean for everyday life?

Everything we do together with God is highly meaningful, even if it seems small in the eyes of men. The suffering that we suffer for the sake of Jesus brings glory and is therefore a gift from God and therefore also highly meaningful. God lets us experience difficulties so that we can grow inwardly in them and become more helpful to others and better able to love, understand others better and thus help them better. The honour that we have as children of God is higher than anything we can get here on earth. Therefore we do not need to seek our own glory. We do not need to strive to become rich because God cares for us. Since we have everything in Christ, we need not hold on to anything here on earth. For us death is the moment when we will lay down our earthly body and see God and live in His love. This will be more beautiful than all that we live here on earth "The most beautiful is yet to come!" The day of our death is a coming home in great joy, and therefore we do not fear it but look forward to it. That is why both of us, Christine Margarete Hennig and Dr. Reiner Hennig, do not attach importance to prolonging our lives at any price, but have signed a living will stating that we do not want organ transplantation, nor cardiopulmonary resuscitation or cancer treatment for us. Already now we stand before God empty-handed and allow Him to give us gifts. This is what makes up the whole of heavenly existence. It gives us a great freedom and serenity. We strive to be reconciled with each other and with God at all times and are ready that each of our days can be the last here on earth. In all this we are held, comforted and free as never before in our lives, and we do not want to swap with anyone.

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Translated with the help of DeepL (www.deepl.com/Translator, free version)