

**The Hennigs
Missions in Kanchanaburi Province
Thailand**

Newsletter 9 - 12 / 2017

Dear friends and prayer partners,

thank you for your interest, your prayers and your donations. The rainy season with its strong rainfalls ended and the night temperatures go down to 15 degrees centigrade. The one year phase of mourning ordered by the state for the late King Bhumiphol ended with a big celebration, and now people have full freedom again to wear lively colors. We got an extension of our work permit and visa until 21 December 2018.

Ministries in our house Ban Jaiyairak

The program for children in our house Ban Jaiyairak on Saturday morning went on. Mid October until end of November few children came, sometimes none. During four December Saturdays we had 7, 12, 24, and 27. This year we didn't make a big Christmas Celebration for the whole village.

Most Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays Christine is in the house at 3 – 6 p. m. For people who want to come. Up to now only few people came, in most cases not more than 1 or 2 per afternoon, often none. Sometimes students came to get help for their English or their homework. In most cases Christine had time for accounting, cleaning the house, and preparing the support distribution. Therefore we decided to shift the biweekly distribution of food and soap to the poorest of the village from Saturday 5 p. m. to Friday 5 p. m.. By this Christine has no longer the program for children in the morning and the distribution in the afternoon. This way she can relax better. Shifting the day was no problem and was well received. The number of persons we support has increased to 46. On 23 December Reiner told the meaning of Christmas to those who had come to receive their support.

Our Sunday Services

Nearly every Sunday our worker Khun Kanitha came to our service together with her daughter Fa. At Saturday, 7 October 6 girls came to us to bake a birthday cake for Sudschada: They were Sudschada, Am Samstag, den 7. 10., kamen 6 Mädchen zu uns, um Geburtstagskuchen für Sudschada, Suai, Taengmo, Fa, Khang, and Min. On Sunday they came to have a coffee time with us and stayed for the Service. We regret, however, that Sudschada and Suai seem to have other interests now.

Our houses

House no. 1 (Ban Jaiyairak) had an inauguration of its new kitchen. We used that occasion to honor our 3 hard working and reliable workers. The kitchen serves very well for preparing food for the even many guests who come. We prepared one of the small rooms of the house so that a guest or a worker can sleep and live there. Khun Fon finished the tiling of the bathroom. Khun O and Reiner did the electrical installation of the new kitchen and Reiner did the connections for it. We had the damaged and difficult to handle paled gate of the house by a new new and easily sliding roller door. It was quickly built in by a firm and was not expensive. Khun O welded a new door for the e and installed it together with his wife Khun Fon. Building of this house is nearly finished, it needs a new painting, a fence and for the outside restroom the finishing of the tiling.

For house no. 2 Khun O repaired and improved the damaged garden door. He welded some additional bars to our main door to prevent our dogs from crawling below of it, when we close the door. Khun Fon and Khun O work in our gardens and water them, if there is no rain. The did renew our vegetable garden. We could harvest lots of vegetables and bananas. The papaya trees we had planted produced very few fruits, a papaya tree, however that grew by itself out of a hole for a compost heap produced a lot of very big fruits.

In our house no. 3 the steel structure of the roof needed a new paint after 2 years, and got it by Khun O and Khun Fon.

Guests from the Netherlands

It was a great joy for us, that Zr. Irene and Zr. Ingrid, who belong to the Deaconesses at Amerongen / Netherlands visited us for 3 Weeks. They had visited us already in 2010 and 2013. It was a very nice and encouraging encounter, and we got a lot out of it. With them we visited Mallika, a full scale replica of some parts of a Thai city and agriculture in 1905. On another day we visited Catherine Riley-Bryan, founder and leader of the Bamboo School, an orphanage with at the moment 61 children at Bong Ti. Besides it she is the paramedic and ambulance driver of this big village, hurrying persons in emergency to the nearest district hospital 30 km distant. She lives by faith in God and receives a lot of help and donations. Later on she brought us things she had got herself as gifts.

CTTM Ministerial Convention 4. - 6. Dezember 2017 at Khon Kaen

Our organization Christ to Thailand Mission (CTTM) held a meeting, the CTTM Ministerial Convention, for its Pastors and Missionaries in a hotel at Khon Kaen in North East Thailand. The theme of the convention was „Pressing towards Maturity“, It was about helping Christian leaders to become mature. We were asked to hold there a one hour devotion and to present three of our Thai songs.

About us

After having sent our last newsletter we made holidays at a hotel in Bangkok during the time of 18. - 26. September. This was a very helpful time of relaxing for us. Christine who had been plagued by severe skin itching for months could see a skin physician at the Adventist Mission Hospital in Bangkok. He gave a successful diagnosis and prescribed drugs, that defeated the itching nearly totally and allow her to sleep well now. During this time we were invited by one of our friends, to an one evening family gathering, because one of her nieces started to study medicine in England. We were impressed by the readiness of this young woman to serve God.

In the following weeks we were mostly at home. Several times, however, we had to go away: 7 times we had to buy a lot at Kanchanaburi City, 44 km away from our home. As we have to buy more than 100 kg food and soap for each regular biweekly food distributions plus food for unplanned emergencies, food for the children who come on Saturday, and food for ourselves, we are very grateful for Khun O and Khun Fon and their pick up truck. All of our banks are at Kanchanaburi City, and one branch is at Thasao, 22 km from our home. Here or at Kanchanaburi City we can buy big sacks (20 kg each) of food for dogs and cats. We can go by bus to both places, but we have often to wait, sometimes more than one hour. The nearest shop for milk yoghurt and bread is at Wang Pho, 8 km from us. And there is our district hospital. We have to go there every 2 months for a follow up. Our Capital Bangkok is only 144 km distant from us. Due to very common traffic jams within the city one way may take 3 – 7 hours to reach a destination there. And as the last bus from Kanchanaburi city to us departs shortly before half past 6, it is usually not possible to go to Bangkok by means of public transport and return home the same day. It is possible, if there is not to do too much in Bangkok, but it is much, much more expensive. During the last months Christine had to go two additional times for a follow up at the Adventist Mission Hospital and Reiner had to spend a whole day and two nights in Bangkok to get his work permit and the material needed for the visa.

For many months Christine was hindered to sleep well by strong itching. The new skin treatment was so successful, that she has had minor attacks only since mid of November and was not hindered any longer by it to sleep well. Probably there will be one follow up meeting with the physician. Her strength has increased, only walking has become more difficult. She organizes the work for our household and the shopping for us and for the poor. She takes care for our workers and for the children who come to our house no. 1. She cooks our midday meals. She keeps contacts with our friends in India and acquires donations for them as well as for a woman in Pakistan, who cares for 25 orphans and 10 widows. We have kept contact with her and learned from others, that she does a good work. Acquisition, administration and transfer of donation for these and keeping contact with the donors takes a lot of time. In addition she does correspondence and counseling via internet and works on a book about "The Christian and the suffering". To have more time for it she withdrew for 3 days into a hotel at Kanchanaburi.

Reiner has held our Sunday Services at 5 p. m. in our main house, and in most cases he preaches. He continues to learn Thai, and his vocabulary has improved markedly. He repeated his Old Testament Hebrew and learned a number of words in addition. He takes care of our homepage www.hennig-lumsum-online.de. When God gives us new songs, he writes them down using the computer program Capella and adds them to our homepage. That has become an easy and quick process now. He writes a bigger book about the Life in Christ and he decided some weeks ago, that this will be his main activity during the next months.

Reasons to give thanks:

- that we got work permit and visa for an additional year until 21.12.2018,
- that the repair and construction work at house no. 1 is nearly finished,
- that our new house Ban Jaiyairak makes the life in our main house much more agreeable,
- that Khun Kanitha marches onward in her life with Jesus,
- that children like to come to us,
- that we got more contacts with the people at our village.

We ask God for:

- someone, who lives and works with us and takes over all parts of our ministry here, when we are absent,
- Thai citizens ready to accept and to live the vision about the village for children in need and ready to do everything to prepare the foundation needed for it, for all the things needed for this foundation and for the recognition of the foundation by the state of Thailand,
- people we encounter, that God can speak and love through us,
- people in our village to become stable Christians, especially those, who up to now didn't dare to confess their face in public,
- protection and help for Christians in India and Pakistan,
- provision and protection for the Christians we support.

We wish you a very good and protected time during the next weeks and send you warm greetings from Lum Sum

Yours sincerely

Christine und Reiner Hennig

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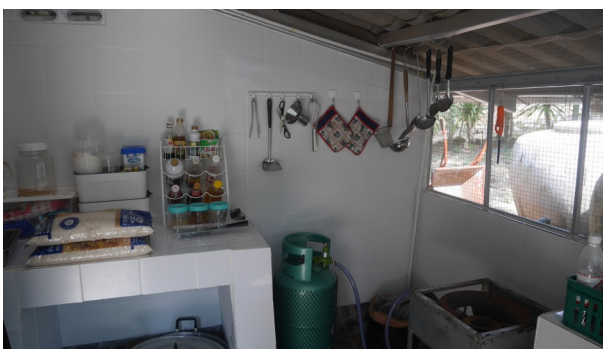
We continue to use our old bank account at ING-DiBa, but are not allowed to receive on it money for others.



Big purchase



Our visitors from the Netherlands



Our new kitchen in ...



... Ban Jaiyairak



Our 3 workers



Children play selling and buying.



The new door in front of our main house



The new entrance door of Ban Jaiyairak



Mallika: Life size mannequins and ...



... live persons in traditional garb



Mallika: Streets in the City and ...



... a water buffalo



Christmas gifts for boys



Christmas gifts for girls



Before our Service at the 3rd Advent Sunday



Christine gets a congratulation.

Some Thoughts about the Christian Ministry

Being called to serve Jesus Christ it is my privilege to share some thoughts with my fellow workers for Christ, who were called by Jesus to serve:

- 1) Who is Jesus Christ?
- 2) What is the foundation, the basis of our work?
- 3) How to live as a Christian in order to become mature and useful?
- 4) How can my ministry become efficient and successful?

1) Who is Jesus Christ?

In Colossians 1, 15 - 16 we read: "He is the the image of the invisible God, firstborn before all creation, because in Him everything was created in the Heavens and on earth, both the visible and the invisible, positions of authority, ruling powers, dominations and empowerments. Everything is created through Him and for Him. He is before everything, and everything has its existence in Him." In Hebrews 1,3 it is stated: "He bears everything by the word of His power." That means:

- a) Everything came into existence through Jesus, no matter how big and powerful it may seem, even the Satan and all his powers.
- b) Everything is held in existence by the powerful word of Jesus only. It can exist only because Jesus carries it. As soon as Jesus withdraws His word, it will be destroyed and disappear. This applies to all political and spiritual powers, to the whole gigantic cosmos with its planets, stars and galaxies, but also down to the smallest atom and the most elementary processes. God is not only a stopgap to explain the things we haven't understood yet, but everything in the cosmos exists only through Him. Nothing happens without His permission and control. He knows everything, and He knows how the things interact to the smallest detail. He knows our innermost being, and He knows everything we really need. He knows, what is best for us.
- c) Everything is created for Jesus and towards Jesus. At the end everything will go to Him and stand before Him and has to give account to Him. Finally not man or Satan, but He alone is the decisive factor, the measure of all things. Jesus is the ultimate aim of everything.
- d) If Jesus is the first, the highest and the last, we owe Him an attitude of respect. He is no one we can toy with. His words are valid. He is the ultimate authority. He is more to be feared than anybody and anything else and infinitely stronger than all our enemies. Jesus said: "Don't fear those, who kill the body, but can't kill the soul. Fear instead the one who can destroy soul and body in hell!" (Mt. 10, 28) This fear makes us free from the rule of any other fear and makes us able to take sound decisions.

2) What is the foundation, the basis of our work?

God is Love. God's innermost being is relationship in love, therefore God got a Son, Jesus. And the innermost being of God is the loving relationship between God, the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. It was Love, why God created the world as a place to live and to work for man, and it was Love, why God created man as a person to have fellowship with. God didn't seek His own, but acted towards man like a partner. God made Himself so small, that He could walk and talk together with Adam in the garden. God loved Adam and didn't force him, but gave him the possibility, a real freedom, to decide to obey God freely and voluntarily. Love never does force or manipulate someone.

Man decided against God's will and thus cut himself off from the Love of God and opened the door for death and destruction.

It was love, that brought God to offer freely the redemption that man couldn't acquire by his own efforts: Jesus Himself became man to live our human life, to take upon Himself our guilt, our separation from God, our curse, our sickness, our old human nature, our death. With all this He went into death, to set us free from it. Thus Jesus Himself became the perfect illustration of Love, that doesn't seek its own in order to give everything. With this Love Jesus is the perfect image of the Love of God. As Jesus gave up everything, He received everything from God the Father. God raised Him up from the dead, gave Him a new life and the authority over everything, high above all powers and dominions. Jesus rules now, but one day He will become visible to all and every knee will have to bow down to Him and acknowledge His rule.

3) How to live as Christians in order to become mature and useful?

With His death and resurrection Jesus has opened a new and easily accessible way for all: It means forgiveness of guilt, healing for body, soul and spirit, liberation from the powers of darkness and their influence, a new life, born from God. The Holy Spirit wants to dwell in us, to lead us and to transform our lives in such a way, that we become willing and able to do the will of God. The love of God Himself is poured out into our heart, that we can love with His love. We become part of a big organism in a close and live connection with Jesus Himself and with all those, who are thus connected with Jesus.

The Apostle Paul writes (col. 3, 9 – 10): 'Put the old man off and away, with all the things he does, and put on the new one, who is constantly renewed, so that he can be known according to the image of whom, who created him.' To put off a piece of clothing and to put it away doesn't take much time. And to put on another piece of clothing doesn't take much time and effort. In the Greek language there is a clear difference between the things I have to do always, as e.g. "bear each other and forgive" (vs. 13), and the things I have to do once and forever as "Kill the members on earth like fornication, uncleanness, ..bad desire, put away wrath, anger, malign intention, blasphemy, bad mouth, put on the new man ... put on mercy, friendliness, patience." These are not things I have to train myself for it, but the Love of God is already in my heart, and I simply have to let it out. And the Love of God is then at work within me.

This is an offer ready for all. But, as love invites, but not forces, men can receive or reject this offer. To accept this offer means to be a Christian. If someone accepts, what God did for him, he is free to decide, that he loves and trusts God so much, that he follows the leadings of the Holy Spirit. Or he can decide, that he knows better than God, what is best for his life and rely on his own insights and abilities. The first way is called the life in Christ or life in the Spirit, the second way is the life in the flesh. Life in the flesh is not only a life yielded to carnal desires like lust for sex and greed, but everything man can do out of his own abilities, even the most social, noble and even heroic actions. If you decide to do things, even the laws given by God, out of your own strength, that is life in the flesh. Everything we do without a close connection with God is life out of the flesh. If we let sin come into our lives, we lose the close connection with God and live in the flesh. If we decide not to forgive and not to love, we live in the flesh. The life in the flesh cuts us away from the life changing power of God and from His love. Anything done and produced in the flesh will not stand in the eyes of God, and will produce no good fruit for the Kingdom of God but death and destruction, and you will be ashamed of it finally.

To live in the Spirit means to live in a close and intimate relationship with God. You are “in Christ”, and God changes your life. The central point is to maintain this close relationship and to trust God for everything. God allows situations, when we clearly see, that all our abilities are not sufficient, and we really need Him. And there we experience His help and His strength to do the things He wants us to do. As we trust God, we trust that even the difficult and dangerous situations, even suffering and death, that hit us, come to us by God's permission only and work in us and through us the very best. You become tried and tested and much more able to receive God's Love and to pass it on. All the things you go through prepare you for the future tasks God will give you.

Jesus didn't buy us a better life on this earth only, but has given us His Glory and the position together with Him at the right Hand of the heavenly Father, high above all authorities and powers acting here on earth. In unity with Jesus we can already now exercise authority. And the suffering together with Jesus now brings us an gigantic eternal Glory. This Glory is not yet visible. When, however, Jesus will be revealed openly visible before all the world, we shall become visible together with Him in Glory.

Everything, therefore, depends on a close relationship with Jesus. Allow, therefore, the Holy Spirit to show you the real state of your life, turn quickly around, if you are away from Him, and come again close to Jesus, receiving His forgiveness, and follow His leading. Do the small steps required of you now in order to be prepared for big steps needed in the future. Come to know Him better and better, read the Bible and take much time to be alone with Him. Let you be loved by God and come so near to His heart, that He can tell you His wishes and desires. Love God so much, that you can't refuse Him anything, if He asks you.

4) How can my ministry become efficient and successful?

The decisive question is not, how you see your ministry or how others see it, and how successful it looks. One thing only is decisive, namely, what God thinks about your ministry. God loves the world and those, who dwell on it, and He wants to invite them and to bless them. It should be His ministry, where He can speak and love and act through you.

In order to serve God you need His preparation and His calling and the right time to start. Sometimes you need a lot of preparation for your future ministry, and God knows best, how to do it. He knows you, your situation and your limitations and your present and future abilities, He knows your place, He loves those He calls you to, and He loves those, from whom He calls you away. He gives you everything you need for your ministry. He makes you mature and effective. Be ready to have the training phases God gives you. Be totally dependent on Him. Build His Kingdom and not your own. As Love doesn't seek its own, trust and obey God. The small steps now prepare you for the bigger steps later on. When Moses tried to act on his own, he failed and had to wait 40 years in the desert of Midian, before God could use him to lead His people. Jesus couldn't start His ministry, before He was 30 years old. And He died few years later only a cruel and shameful death at the cross. But these few years were more important for the whole cosmos than anything else that happened in history. If you want to make a real impact, stay close to God and let Him do His work through you.

God calls you to serve. Love doesn't seek its own. If you serve others and don't care for your own reputation, God will take care of you and give you the honor you need. You don't bind people to your person, but it is your wish, that they follow Jesus. You help them to become the persons God wants them to be. You help them to find their calling from God and go to the place where God

wants them to be. You serve also other churches and denominations, as the Lord leads you, and you are very glad about every blessing, that God gives to others.

If you are a pastor, it is your task not to be the spiritual expert of your church and to do the ministry yourself, but to train the members of your congregation, that they can do the ministry. You are called to be a good shepherd, who is ready to lay down his life for his sheep.

It is all about Love.

This text is based on the preparation for the a devotion at the CTTM Ministerial convention at Khon Kaen on 5.11.2017. The Bible quotations are translated from the original text by the author.

Dr. Reiner Hennig, 22. 12. 2017

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