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**Thailand**

**Newsletter 01 - 02 2026**

Lum Sum, March 6, 2026

**Dear friends,**

I am very grateful for your prayers and your solidarity with me. Now I would like to tell you a little about what happened here since mid-December 2025.

**Be grateful in everything!**

In his first letter to the church in Thessalonica, the apostle Paul writes (1 Thess. 5, 18): "Be thankful in everything, for this is what God in Christ Jesus desires from you!" I have experienced some very negative things in my life: I was so intimidated that my life was strongly characterized by fears. That's why I always lived very vigilantly and on my guard and controlled my soul very closely. That's why I've never mourned a person or thing I've lost since I was 7 years old, because no person or thing was ultimately reliable for me. I felt that I was quite weak. I never had the goal of becoming successful or rich or attaining a certain position. By the age of 12, I had given my life to Jesus and have had a person-to-person relationship with HIM ever since. A year later, through an invitation from a classmate, I was given the opportunity to join the EC, a youth group affiliated to the German branch of the international movement Christian Endeavor. I was very happy to go there. But I was always very aware that my parents, who were very critical of my Christian path, would have banned me from the EC immediately if my performance at school had deteriorated. As, however, it got better and better over the years, they couldn't say much against it.

I had experienced that the almighty God always had enough to strengthen, encourage and help me in every situation. And I thanked God for this help.

What was new for me now was to thank God for the injustice that happened to me. The following happened in the history of Israel: Joseph was so hated by his brothers that they wanted to kill him, but then decided to sell him into slavery in Egypt. Their behavior was absolutely evil. In Egypt he initially experienced great success, which was then ruined by an absolutely vicious slander. But these disasters then led to him becoming the most important advisor to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and thus saving Egypt and the surrounding countries from starvation. He then finally told his brothers: "You had evil in mind against me, but God intended to turn it to good, to accomplish what is now plain to see, namely, to preserve a numerous people alive." (Genesis 50:20)

While writing these lines, it suddenly became very clear to me how much my problems have helped me to follow Jesus. I saw myself as poor, as someone who didn't have much to offer others apart from good school results. That's why I never had problems putting everything of my own aside and just being before God. I knew that I needed God's love and strength because my own love and strength were not enough. Basically, I was open to any of God's ways, and God put in my heart when I was a teenager the longing to live by faith and trust God to give me everything I needed without having to ask people for it. And he put in my heart the longing to love Him so much that I couldn't refuse Him anything, and to be open to all His ways. All my fundamental life decisions could be made very quickly and without struggle; they followed the Franconian motto "Gott hods gsochd, nocher hammers hahl gadohn." (in High German: "God said it, and then we just did it.") Being open to all of God's wishes, even those that He hardly dares to say, has become a central point in my life, and the willingness to let go of everything, really everything, at any time has also become crucial for me.

Loving as a follower of Jesus means that you lavishly bestow the fullness of God's love, which has been poured into your heart, on the person you meet now, but never bind them to you, because love does not seek its own. Ultimately, you can only love the one you meet at the moment and do him good, but he is never your possession. And this love will also be the love that we will live in the heavenly world.

When I was commissioned by my brothers to live alone in Frankfurt for a time between 1980 and 1982, the Holy Spirit gave me the advice: "If you don't have much to say yourself, then just listen!" This proved to be extremely effective.

I am now extremely grateful for all the difficult things I experienced in my youth, because I can see more and more how much God loved me when He put me through that. And it really encourages me to trust God for everything He has in store for me.

## **Newsletters**

I sent out the last newsletter mainly in German and English and a few copies in Dutch, Swedish, Italian and Japanese. The mailing was practically completed by 25 December. In the meantime, I have learned how to create good translations using the Google Translator program. That's why I plan to translate the newsletter into Thai from now on. As the recipients of the Thai newsletter do not have my previous newsletters in Thai, this letter will probably have to give them a brief overview of the situation since Christine's death.

## **New Year's campaign**

As in previous years, I took the New Year as an opportunity to thank people for their

service in the past year, to wish them all the best for the new calendar year and to give them a little letter that I wrote myself. Since my dear wife Christine passed away in March last year, it made sense to write something in this letter about the hope we can have in Christ and to invite the recipients to this hope. I am attaching the letter below. I asked all the stores and all the authorities I dealt with to speak to the head of the department if possible and to thank him on behalf of all his staff and to wish the whole department well for the New Year. This was always very well received. There were even some longer, very good conversations, for example with the director of the district office for education outside of regular schools (KoSoNo). This authority offers pupils who were unable to take the regular route to the High school diploma via secondary schools the opportunity to take special courses to obtain this diploma if they also have to work to earn money.

### **Religious education**

During our conversation, the director of KoSoNo asked me if I would be willing to hold two hours each of Christian religious instruction at two schools in his district on January 22 and 23. I saw it as a special privilege to give Christian religious instruction at the request of a state authority and to have complete freedom in what I wanted to say. Both of these were very rewarding experiences for me, and I was greatly helped by the fact that my 15 years at the school had, after much struggle, finally given me great pleasure in teaching a class and I was able to gain many helpful experiences. I started with the fact that the results of today's science suggest that this world did not always exist, but had a definite beginning at a fixed point in time in the past. This beginning was set by an omnipotent and extremely intelligent person capable of making decisions. We know that in this world there is good and evil, love and hate, beautiful and ugly, creativity and planning, things that cannot be explained by chance. Thus we have as Creator an all-powerful person who is absolutely good and is love, just and infinitely intelligent. We as humans are created to love God voluntarily, and in the close, personal 'relationship with God we receive everything we need for this. The rest was then, as usual, about sin, redemption through Jesus' death on the cross and the new life that He gives. God gives us a new life in that we can do what God asks of us. Eternal life, eternal calling, living hope. I could say to the students, "If you really want to know if what I'm telling you is true, you can just talk to God and ask Him if it's true. If you really want to know the truth, He will convince you."

### **YWAM**

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I now see myself as part of YWAM in Thailand and specifically assigned to the YWAM base in Wangkrachae in Kanchanaburi province. This means that I am with them every 14 days, take part in the Sunday service there and usually also preach. I now spend more time with the brothers and sisters

there. I am very grateful for our time together. 3 teenagers live there and are learning through homeschooling. I have been asked to help these girls by speaking English with them and specifically helping them learn math and music. If groups come to this YWAM base, I am happy to help if requested.

### **Order in the office**

What bothered me for a long time was the lack of order in my office. Mountains of things that needed to be filed or put away piled up on the floor or desk, making it difficult to work. It took me several days to tidy up my office.

### **Writing**

I haven't had time to finish a new book, but I am very moved by the thoughts on German history. Germany was a nation that wanted to be under God and through obedience to God's commandments was greatly blessed by God and became very strong. But then they turned away from God and trusted in their own strength. Pride led to the willful destruction of good relationships and thus international isolation.

And then came the panic that they no longer felt equal to the increasing military strength of Russia and France, and therefore wanted war with both powers as soon as possible, because ultimately they no longer trusted in God's protection. This led to a battle for the survival of nations, in which the German government stood idly by and watched the Ottoman Empire annihilate the Armenians, even though it could easily have prevented it. And finally, Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, known as Lenin, was allowed to travel from Switzerland to Sweden, from where he could easily get into Russia, and was given a lot of money so that he could install a Marxist regime in Russia. The many miseries caused by Marxists in this world to this day are thus attributable to Germany.

The struggle for existence then led to the unjust and humiliating peace treaties of Brest Litovsk and Versailles. The Peace of Versailles forced Germany to sign that it alone was to blame for the First World War and all the damage it caused, that it was therefore a rogue state, and that was firmly rejected by all Germans. This made it very difficult for the Germans to stand before God and recognize and admit their own share of the guilt. And it paved the way for Adolf Hitler, who then succeeded in abolishing the most humiliating conditions of the Versailles peace without war by 1939. Ultimately, Hitler fascinated the masses because they believed that they could gain access to "power" through this "leader", bypassing God. Germany was caught up in the catastrophe of the Second World War, from which it emerged severely damaged and deeply affected in its identity. Comparatively few really turned back to God, and

from 1968 onwards a Marxist movement swept through the Federal Republic of Germany, fighting against all authority and thus consciously also against God. In the following decades, this movement took over more and more parts of society and now controls public opinion almost completely. Germany has thus become a nation hostile to God.

I am currently reading the prophet Jeremiah in my daily Bible reading. I am appalled at how a nation under God had renounced God and was then given up by God. This is exactly what I am now experiencing with Germany.

Now it is about coming to God, asking Him for forgiveness and rediscovering what a German identity before God can look like today in humility, obedience and faithfulness, ready to serve God and others with the gifts God has given us. What should be rediscovered and cultivated as a good gift?

### **What else was important?**

For me, the days were pretty full and I wasted some time watching movies on YouTube, and that meant that nights were shorter and work days less intense. I'm changing that now. I've largely stopped watching YouTube movies and now go to bed earlier, which is good for me overall. I now quite regularly take one day off a week without a fixed program, and for almost every other day of the week, I plan a longer walk (an old friend recommended this to me) and then a time of intercession. I experience the beauty in the trees and the landscape very intensely. I am very grateful that I can experience this so intensely. And when I look at my past, it becomes increasingly clear to me how much I have been blessed by God, especially in the things that were difficult for me and where nothing seemed to have happened. And at the same time, I also see more and more of all the positive things that I have been given. Overall, I trust God much more now than I used to trust Him. And I am very happy to be who God has made me to be. Overall, it is a more beautiful and relaxed time for me than ever before in my life.

### **What happens next?**

- Standing before God.
- Intercession for the body of Christ
- Writing scripts.
- Reading books (I haven't gotten around to it yet)
- Closer cooperation with Arun and Paeng and their YWAM base.

- Our friends in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh have warmly invited me to visit them again. I need clear guidance from God for this.
- Meetings (requested) with the Roman Catholic Bishop of Ratchaburi, who is responsible for our province, and with the head of the Russian Orthodox Church in Thailand

I wish you God's rich blessings and greet you warmly and with gratitude

Yours in Christ Jesus

*Reiner Hennig*

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