

The Sullivants in Thailand



December 31, 2022

Dear Friends,

We trust you had a Merry Christmas and New Year gathered around the Word of God with family and friends! Thank you to those of you who sent something extra for our family for Christmas. That was most generous and thoughtful of you.

We are doing well as a family, though this Christmas season was difficult with our 2 oldest children being back in Canada. We were able to spend some extra "virtual" time with them over the Christmas-New Year's week, which was nice.

While we have been enduring a cool snap in recent weeks, we have not seen the snow and cold that North America has! We have carefully avoided hypothermia as our temperatures dipped to around 65F/18C at night with daytime temps only reaching to about 86F/30C!

The Christmas and New Year's season is traditionally a slow time for our church. Thai employers don't give vacation time like we are used to in North America. Here, the long weekends and holidays are the times that people take off to see family and go for a trip (if they do). New Year's and the Thai New Year in April are the really big events that most people take as their "vacation" time.

So, on Christmas Sunday, we were missing some folks who had already left, but the Lord still brought in 25 with a couple of first-time visitors! Our New Years Sunday... we had 3 besides our family! All but one of the members who were absent were out of town on that Sunday.

Why do I share that? In my humanity, I hate to see an empty church service, but I also know in my head that it's generally not a reflection of some problem with the membership...it's just the dynamic we face here. When you think of missionaries adjusting to different cultures, situations like this can be the type of things that just seem so foreign. It doesn't discourage me anymore, but it used to be a cloud over the holidays for me.

Please pray for the 2 visitors from Christmas Sunday. They came in late and left early and nobody knew who they were. I am hoping they return or contact us so I can meet with them and inquire about their souls. I had invited several clerks and shopkeepers I met in the weeks leading up to Christmas Sunday, but since most Thai people still wear facemasks, recognizing people outside of their normal setting is often difficult.

We are grateful to the Lord for another year to serve Him where He has placed us. Please know we are also praying for each of you and your ministries.

For His Glory,

Michael Sullivant, Jr.
& Family

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