

Bird Seed April 2010

Matthew 13:31-32 Jesus told them another story: The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a farmer plants a mustard seed in a field. Although it is the smallest of all seeds, it grows larger than any garden plant and becomes a tree. Birds even come and nest on its branches.

Class Happenings

Classes can lead any direction at any given moment. I love that about being here because we have fun, relaxed classes which help the students to feel comfortable about speaking and asking any kind of question. During a conversation class, Tip, a female student who works at a hospital, asked me if I believed in spirits and if I was afraid of them. So the conversation began as I explained about the Christian aspect of spirits. Be-ah, Gloo-ay and Tip sat with their eyes fixed on me as I explained to them why I wasn't afraid of spirits, leading them to Christ and the safety we can have in Him against evil spirits. After their questions of spirits were satisfied, their questions then turned to focus on Jesus and Heaven and Hell. Our class ended with calming their fears through believing in Jesus Christ, who is God, who loves us and who is much stronger than any spirit.

My Tuesday night class is a Level 1 conversation class with 8 students. One of my students named Phud is a young man whose sister has studied at our center and learned much about the Christian faith. Phud has also studied with me many times, beginning in my children's class, Introduction class and now this Level 1 class. One of the questions I asked the class was, "How did the stars get into the sky?" Coptor quickly said, "Big Bang". I told the class I didn't believe in the Big Bang and so the conversation began about what I believe and "how did the stars get into the sky?" Nune, is a middle aged man who is new to our center/class this term. He asked more questions about this subject than the other students. At the end of our class, Phud stayed behind to talk to me. He looked at me, smiled and said, "Teacher, I believe in Jesus". I asked him what Jesus means to him. He told me what he believed and told me what he had learned from his sister and from the CGM center. He told me also that he and his sister have been going to a church where there are many young people learning about Jesus. I hugged him and told him I was so happy to hear this news. At that time, Nune came back into the classroom and asked me to explain what I had written on the white board (John 14:6-7 Jesus being the only way to Heaven) So, I began to explain, but then Phud took over and I stood there listening to Phud witness the Gospel to Nune. What an incredible joy and blessing to listen to this young man witness his Savior to this older man who is seeking his Savior. The next week, in my Wednesday night Level 1 Interchange class, with six students present, we were 15 minutes from the end of our class and I was waiting for 3 students to finish their work paper, when Nune (who is studying on Tuesday and Wednesday) looked at the white board and asked me about what I had written (another scripture verse) I began to explain this to him when Woot (a male student) joined in the conversation. He was speaking Thai to Nune, so most of it I couldn't understand. I did pick up on a few Christian words that I hear every Sunday in church. I interrupted and asked, "Woot, are you a Christian?" He smiled, said he was and went back to his Thai conversation with Nune, but not only Nune. Now, all of the students were finished with their work papers and listening intently to what Woot was saying. The last 15 minutes of class was Thai Christian conversation and it didn't matter if I knew Thai or not....I knew the Holy Spirit was at work and I knew what was being said and learned in those 15 minutes. At the end of class, Nune looked at me and said, "I want to read this things I hear

about tonight and in my other class.” I told him I would give him a Thai/English Bible. So, when class was over, I got the Bible (New Testament) to give to him, led him to the book of John, and told him to begin his reading there. He asked me about the pages before John and I told him they were important for him to read too, that all of Bible is important for him to read, but that John would be a good place for him to begin since this is all new to him. I told him to ask me, Joe, or Ar about any questions he had. His smile was big and he said, “I read tonight and every night to learn more about Jesus.” I look forward to the days ahead to hear what he has learned about Jesus.

This Friday night in my Level 3 Conversation class, I had only 2 of my students show up. We used conversation question cards during the first part of our class. My students love these cards. They like that they get to ask Teacher questions too. Anong’s (female) question to me was, “What is your favorite book?” My answer was the Bible. She looked at me with question. I asked her if she knew what the Bible is and she said no. So, I explained the Bible to her and explained that the Bible is about God’s love for us and it gives us the answer how to get to heaven to be with God forever when we die. She said, “I no ever hear that Book or the God love before. How God do His plan?” Chow, the other student in the class joined in to our conversation. He told me he had gone to a Christian school when he was in elementary school. I said, so you know about the things I am talking about and he said yes. So, then the 3 of us talked about the Bible and God’s plan through Jesus to lead us to Heaven.

Please keep all of these dear students/friends in your prayers as the seeds of faith grow to life through the Holy Spirit.

Easter Party at CGM

We didn’t have as many students this year for our Easter party because of the demonstrations going on throughout the city. Some of our classes have been lighter, depending on the demonstrations too. The party was still a fun time and a great time to share with the ones who did attend, the great love of our risen Lord and Savior. While we colored eggs, we talked about all of the things associated with Easter through an object lesson. The students are always ready to ask about our culture/Christian culture. After we colored the eggs and sang a couple of songs, Joe said a meal prayer and then we enjoyed dinner together. After most of the students had gone, Goi (who isn’t a student, but who is a very good friend of Ar’s and mine) began to ask me questions about Christianity. The questions that she was asking was much different from the ones I usually get. I asked her how she already knew so much about the Christian faith and she said that she had gone to a Christian school here in Bangkok when she was younger. (She had never told me this before, but now that we have a close relationship, she had many questions that she wanted answers to) We talked for almost 2 hours. On Easter Sunday morning, she was sitting in church with Ar and me!! What a great blessing!! I pray she will continue to attend our church and grow in our church family as she grows in her walk with our Lord.

Easter Service

Pastor Sompong’s baby granddaughter, Grace, was baptized during our Easter morning service. How special it was to watch Pastor as he baptized baby Grace into our Lord’s family.

After the service, we had a luncheon for our two Deaconesses, Sarah and Betsy who will be leaving us

this month. We pray many blessings in their lives as they continue to serve our Lord through their life's ministries.

I have a prayer request:

My fundraising goal has increased and I am asking for help through prayer, fundraisers, donations, whatever my dear supporters/friends can do to help in this matter. I will be coming home the end of July to work on raising funds that will bring me back to this ministry here in Bangkok; to my CGM home. My heart is heavy to be leaving CGM, my family, my students and my teaching....but I know that God is faithful, has His plan and will work mightily to move this mountain so that if it is His will for me to come back to CGM, I will! God bless you all.

In His Service and Love...Robin (Birdie)

To send support, send your gifts to: LCMS World Missions 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd. St. Louis, Missouri 63122-7295 (please write: support Robin McCoy on your check)

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