

OVERSEAS FIELD REPORT

A publication dedicated to making known the ways in which God is showing Himself strong on the behalf of those who serve Him.

Volume 1, Issue 3

Written by Joshua Steele

January/February 2004



Teach All Nations

Matthew 28:19-20

Hank Thompson chats with two Thai students at Rangsit University, just outside Bangkok.

THE SUN was beating down relentlessly as we exited the sky train terminal in Bangkok. There were about twelve of us altogether, walking along the hot, greasy streets, wearing backpacks and hoping to reach our destination as soon as possible so we could find some relief from the heat.

Our goal was to find the Chulalongkorn University, and interview groups of Thai students in order to learn more about how they view life. We had prepared a special “world view survey” with questions ranging

from general things like age and birthplace, to more specific ones like “What is sin?” or “Who was Jesus Christ?”

Finally, after a few wrong turns and some sketchy directions, we found the university. We interviewed several students and began to learn some amazing things. For example, almost every student without exception knew what the Bible was, but very few had ever read it. Many of them said that they prayed, but almost none believed that their prayers were heard by anyone. They said that the praying was

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How YOU can Pray...

- Pray that God would send more laborers into His harvest fields.
- Pray for the many Thais who have heard the Gospel over the past several months.
- Pray that God would give wisdom and guidance to Jessie Beal and myself as we prepare to move into a new phase of ministry in Ukraine.
- Pray for the young men preparing to come to Ukraine for missions training. (see article on pg. 3)
- Pray for Jerry Balding and the others who will be continuing the prison ministry in Bangkok.

LABORERS TOGETHER



Jessie Beal, his wife Teresa, and their two children Alexandria and Cassia.

IN 1996, I walked off an airplane at the international airport in Hong Kong, and met Jessie Beal for the first time. He had

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Bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those under the power of darkness and proving to the world that God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

2 "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts."

TEACH ALL NATIONS

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just something to make them feel better. When asked about Jesus Christ, almost all the students said

As more ministries began to open up here in Bangkok, different students began to take responsibility for various parts of the work. One of them, Hank

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Thai students are quite enthusiastic about speaking with foreigners, and especially about learning English.

Hank told me once of the first time he met a young student named Pat (pictured below speaking with Kurt Hein.) He started off by explaining that he was from America and would like to learn more about the Thai people. After the initial ice-breaker questions, the conversation turned to spiritual things. Asians tend to be far more sensitive to the spiritual realm than Westerners, and Pat was no exception. He told Hank that he was into Buddhism, because he felt that the various shrines and prayers would protect him from ghosts. He claimed to

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Go ye therefore...

that He was the Son of God, and that He taught people to love one another. Perhaps one of the most interesting things we encountered was the students' knowledge of hell. A very large percentage, when asked what happens to sinners, said, "Oh, sinners go to hell."

We came back to that university many times, and eventually began visiting other universities as well. Before long, we had completed quite a number of surveys and had learned a great deal about how these people think and how best to minister to them.

* * * *

Thompson (19), decided that he would like to continue on the work at the universities. Two other young men, Kurt Hein (18) and his brother Evan (16) became involved as well.

The three of them began making trips several times a week to witness to students on campus. Their method was really quite simple. Upon arriving at a campus, they would go to areas where students typically congregated (such as the cafeteria) and approach various groups, explaining that they were Americans and asking if the students would like to chat for a few minutes. Most



and teach...



all nations.

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TEACH ALL NATIONS

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have seen a ghost once (which is not an uncommon story at all among the Thais) and told of his fear that they could harm his mind.

Soon, Hank was able to share with him how that as a Christian he was not afraid of the spiritual realm, and was not even afraid to die. This came as great surprise to Pat, and he asked how Hank could face death without fear. Hank was then able to share the Gospel, and explain that the difference between Christianity and Buddhism (which many Thais have trouble seeing) is that as Christians, we trust not in our good works, but in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Pat was quite open to this idea, and asked Hank if he would come back and speak with him again on this subject.

Since then, Hank and the other young men have been back to these universities many times, teaching the truths of the Gospel and pointing students to salvation in Jesus Christ. ♦



The single students and I spend an afternoon at Angkor Wat while renewing our Thai visas in Cambodia.



MISSIONS TRAINING IN UKRAINE

Are you a young man with a desire to win the lost overseas? Then read on, and learn about the possibilities of short-term missions in Ukraine!

Our vision is to provide young men with an opportunity to pursue the call of God on their lives by serving alongside established, experienced missionaries in a foreign country as they propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Beginning this summer, we will be facilitating short-term training and discipleship for young men 17 years of age and older, in order to equip them to be successful as full-time, foreign missionaries. These young men will live and work in western Ukraine for a period of approximately six months and will be involved in hands-on, practical ministry on a daily basis.

If you would like more information about this training, please contact me immediately by e-mail at joshua_m_steele@yahoo.com, or write to:

**Family Bible Fellowship, ATTN: Ukraine Missions,
211 Old Steele Creek Ct., Azle, TX 76020.**

LABORERS TOGETHER

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organized a small team of young people to assist in a large literature distribution campaign, which would last about six months. Although I was only present for the last six weeks of the project, my time in Hong Kong was a life-changing experience. It was my first trip overseas, and it gave me a perspective on life and missions that I previously lacked.

Since the Hong Kong project, I have had many opportunities to serve with the Beal family in foreign countries. Jessie has taught me a great deal about foreign missions, and I am indebted to him for disciplining me in this way.

Now the Lord is once again

leading us to work together in Ukraine. II Timothy 2:2 says: *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."* Jessie and I both believe very strongly that missions is much more than simply preaching to the lost. It also involves teaching the saved.

When I look back at the training I received before I came to the foreign field, and I think about why I am here, there are many factors to which I could point, including godly parents, solid Bible teaching, etc. But the one thing which had the most impact in opening my eyes to the very real

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LABORERS TOGETHER

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war for souls raging all around us was my time in Hong Kong. I had had much valuable teaching leading up to that, but it was only after spending six weeks in a small Asian country thousands of miles from home, passing out tracts day after day, that I finally saw the purpose that God had for me.

I recall that as I was preparing to leave for Hong Kong at only sixteen, people were asking my parents why in the world they were allowing me to go abroad at such a young age. While I readily admit that such a decision may vary for different people, I am very grateful that my parents had the wisdom and foresight to understand the significance that such training would have for me.

Beginning this summer, it is our vision to open that same door for other young men. One of our major goals in doing this is to employ the Biblical method of training through discipleship over and



A group of believers from Bible Baptist Church in L'viv, Ukraine, gathers for a baptismal service at a nearby lake. (August, 2003)

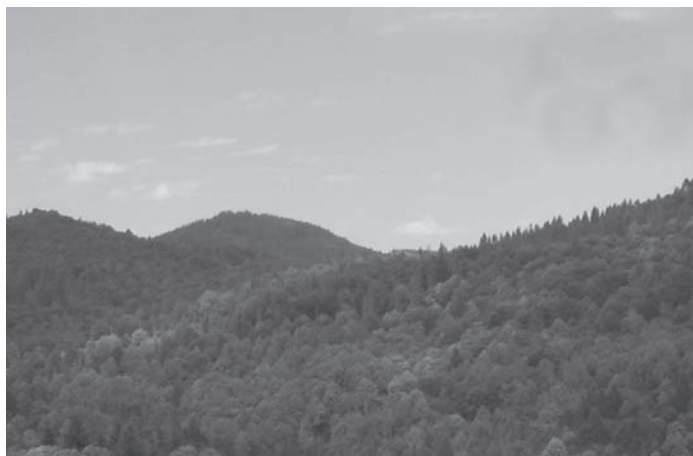
above book work and classroom lectures. While we certainly do not deny the importance of sound doctrinal teaching from the Word of God, our primary focus will be to take the prospective missionary to the front lines where he will learn by experience what is required of a soldier.

When Jesus looked out across the harvest fields, He did not tell the disciples to pray for conversions. He told them to pray for laborers. Many of you who read this newsletter have been doing just that,

and I believe that God is answering your prayers.

As we make the final preparations for this new stage in the ministry, there is much to look forward to, but also much opposition. Even during the short time that I have been in Thailand, I have seen Satan come against us in ways that I never anticipated. Be sure that he will not sit quietly while we labor to advance the Kingdom of God in Ukraine. Please pray for us as we minister, and know that when you do, you are heard by the Creator Himself, who, in response to your intercession, acts on our behalf, opening doors and winning battles as only He can.

To God be the Glory



Ukraine's Carpathian Mountains

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