

Paul and Sarah Brown

God Will Bring Order Out of Chaos

August 2020

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Life in Chiang Mai is slowly getting back to some normality, however, there are many rules and guidelines in place relating to COVID that we must follow in ministry areas and everyday life. The rainy season this year seems to be playing hide and seek. Just when we think the rain has arrived to take the intense temperature down the sun comes back out to play, bringing with it sticky humidity.

We headed back to work at New Life Center Foundation (NLCF) at the beginning of June. We spent the first day back in devotions - worshipping, sharing how this period has been for everyone, and time together in prayer. It was definitely needed and very cathartic. The students at NLCF residence home continued with online studies. Paul went back to a normal work schedule at NLCF's head office and Sarah resumed with a minimal teaching schedule. Sarah resumed a normal bakery teaching schedule in July. It has been great to be back with the students and continuing to see them flourish. Sarah switched roles with them recently and took a step back in one of the sessions and watched one of the students confidently lead the session, she did an excellent job.

NLCF requested if we would film the students for a video for International Ministries World Mission Conference 2020 live stream event. Filming with the students was a joy, it was great to see their personalities open up as they got used to the camera, giving us lots to laugh about.

At the end of June, we led our first Thai devotion at NLCF. This is still quite a daunting thing for us to do since the Thai Christian vocabulary is so hard to master and understand. However, the additional Thai Bible lessons that Sarah has been taking, helped greatly. We are due to lead devotions again in mid-August.

The 1st of July was quite a big day, as the Thai government opened up more of Thailand, all Thai children including the students at NLCF went back to school, Thais stranded in other countries were allowed to return and stranded foreigners are now able to return home.



Among the work we have been doing in-country, we have also been virtually joining with churches in the UK as part of the home assignment we would have done this year. It has been a great blessing and privilege to join each church and see how in the most extreme circumstances God's Word and work is still going forth in the UK and around the world.

We returned to House of Praise International church at the beginning of July. It was a very strange experience to see all the chairs spread out for social distancing. The sanctuary normally holds about 100 – 150 people, but there were only about 50 – 60 chairs spaced out. Our temperature is taken on entering the church and hand sanitiser is available to use at strategic points around the building. We are allowed to sing, but everyone is wearing masks whilst singing. We are beginning to forget what people look like, since wearing masks. Thailand has had compulsory mask-wearing in place since the end of March.

The number of cases and deaths have been low in Thailand. However, the pandemic is having a drastic effect on people's personal finances, many are still struggling to find the means to purchase food. The church we attend, are doing outreach through their programme called Project Love.



The knock-on effect of the pandemic has seen many businesses around Thailand close and others are on the brink of closing due to the severe drop in tourism. Alongside this in mid-July, the youth of Thailand held an anti-government protest over 2 days, for democracy. It would be easy to focus on the uncertainty and unrest in Thailand and around the world. However, we have been reminded that continuing to keep our focus on the Lord and trust Him with all of our heart, He will give a peace that the world cannot give. Even when everything around us is chaotic. Our God is not a God of disorder but of peace – 1 Corinthians 14:33. He gives us an internal peace that no one can take away.

Please pray:

It has made several visits around different provinces of Northern and Western Thailand distributing food to communities worst hit by the pandemic. These parcels of food have become a lifeline to these communities, whilst also providing the opportunity to spend time listening and praying for them. We will hopefully be joining Project Love on their next outreach.

- For the NLCF students back at school – That social distancing measures will be well adhered to at each school and that lessons will be able to be conducted as best as possible in the current circumstances.
- For the political unrest in Thailand, for God's peace to reign and for positive change to happen.
- For the outreach work of Project Love – House of Praise International Church.



May you be encouraged as you remember that 'God will bring order out of chaos'. Stand firm and remember that nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love. Neither pandemic, nor death, nor uncertainty, nor protests, nor panic, nor fear can ever separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus. We worship the God of new beginnings who has already overcome these things.

Love & Blessings, Sarah & Paul

If you would like to support Paul and Sarah Brown by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



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