



IR Family News

April, 2015

IGoAsian Bible School 2015

IGo's 7th Asian Bible School is now history. What we started in 2009 with 7 students from 2 different countries, has now grown to 29 students from 9 different countries. Truly the 3 week Bible School in March each year has grown and become as much and more than we dreamed of at the beginning. The students at ABS this year came from the following countries: Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Nepal, India, China, Pakistan and Nigeria.

Many of the students that come to Asian Bible School (ABS) are church leaders. One pastor from Nigeria takes all the material he receives while at IGo and returns to his homeland and trains other native pastors with what he has learned.

One of the most encouraging and challenging aspects of ABS is how hungry the students are! After my class on Biblical Leadership, one pastor came into my office and just wept at how he has not been a humble, servant leader for his family and church. One pastor said that last year at ABS he learned that his most important ministry is his family. So he went home, apologized to his wife and children for neglecting them, started involving them more in his ministry, then returned this year and brought his wife with him! It was exciting to see him and his wife learn and grow together this year. One young man from Myanmar wrote me the following letter after ABS this year:

Dear Sir,

Thank you so much for your teaching that I learned from you this year. Please keep praying for me. We don't have tribal alphabet and the Bible, we use another language. In tribal population are about 5,000 people only.

Last night when I prayed I cried because here those who serve the Lord are kind, good relationship and care for the people. I am so happy. But in my place one who are great leader are selfish in his family and can't give care to the people and good fellowship, don't give any thing to his followers. When I think I am so sad for that last night too, but I have to go back to my place now.

In my tribe, we knew the gospel in 1992. We were late knowing God. People are not wise and have no

education, yet today because they don't have any school before, my parents can't read any letter and don't have any education too, and poor. We believe animism and the devil from our fore-father.

In my level age we are trying to get education and to have our own alphabet and the Bible. I commit my life for God. But very different for me in the situation of my place. Please pray for me to consist the trouble and to be able to transform the people's mind, that is my prayer and make me cry when I prayed for that! Please share my prayer request sir!

I had another young leader share with me about the corruption in his pastor who is over him in the ministry. He is the only one who knows about the situation, but he doesn't know what to do. My heart was so burdened by how many of these young believers have not had the privilege to be taught and led by Godly men of integrity like we have been.

Please pray for the ABS students as they are seeking to live out what they have learned here at IGo this year! Also pray for us as staff at IGo as we seek to live out what we have learned from our students! Truly their commitment in the face of severe persecution is a huge challenge to us! Their hunger to learn and immediately apply what they learn was also such a challenge to me. Praise God for the privilege to learn and grow together with believers from all over the world!

Blessings,
Rick



Visitor!

We were so blessed this past month with a visitor - Nathanael Lapp. He had gone to school with our children last year and played on the same basketball team as the boys. It was very good for our children to have him here for a few days after he was in Burma for a mission trip.



We crammed quite a lot into the three days that he was here ... a trip around the mountain on motorcycles, visiting the elephant camp, Night Bazaar, basketball with some Thai guys, etc. The children still talk of their great memories! Visitors help to bring our two worlds together! ◇

Please pray with us for...

- IGo staff retreat, April 14-18. Pray that God would build our staff relationships & team through this time together.
- IGo 1st Semester Students as they prepare to come. Classes start April 27.
- Institute staff and families: for spiritual protection, for all the work in the Institute that still needs to be accomplished & for strength to give it our all.
- Praise God for visitors – Nathanael Lapp & Ryan & Amy Huber & family

VCS Spring Program

We enjoyed the VCS Spring Program this year which focused on the Death & Resurrection of Jesus! It was well put together by the teachers with speaking parts and songs that clearly depicted the darkness before the resurrection and then the light! It was fun to see the children use their talents – our boys got to speak & draw!



AMAZING THAILAND

We are in the hottest season of the year: 100* days are the norm. In the midst of this season Thailand brings to you “Songkran” – which is the biggest holiday of the year! As I understand it Songkran is the celebration of the New Year where people ‘wash away the old’ for the start of a new year. One of the ways this is done is by washing the Buddha idols. Some of that water is also put on your own head as a blessing. It seems that some of this washing and ‘blessing’ has *evolved* into what draws lots of people out onto the streets for the ‘festival of throwing water’ ... the biggest 3-day city-wide water fight ever! It’s crazy, dangerous, & fun. Some years we have taken part in it and some years we have stayed out of it! It’s definitely a big part of *Amazing Thailand*. Where else could you go and throw ice-cold or dirty-moat water on anyone for three days just for fun? ◇