Thai Tidbits

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Beloved King of Thailand Dead

His Majesty, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand died October 13, 2016, at age 88 after ruling Thailand for the past seventy years.

Thailand has begun a year of mourning after the death of King Bhumibol, the world's longest reigning monarch. He was crowned king a year before I was born and is the only king I have known in my lifetime. Although the King was not a Christian, the Thai Christians love him.

We have had total freedom in religion during King Bhumibol's rule. We could worship God anytime and anywhere in the country. Moreover, we could preach and teach God's word to anyone on the street. This religious freedom could be because the King was born in America and had been raised in Switzerland. He knew what Christian principles were. I assume that he might have attended church many times during his childhood, or had friends who attended churches of various denominations.

Thai people love King Bhumibol because he loved his people. Over his seventy-year reign he instigated more than 4,000 projects for improving the living condition of the Thai people. He trekked into the rural areas and the remote parts of the country to see how to help his people—into the jungle or on the top of the hills. He went to the northern, and southern parts of Thailand as well as to the east and west of Thailand to see what he could do for his people. When the King went out into the countryside, he would carry his camera and maps so he could study the land. The King was half-blind from a vehicle accident but that did not hamper him from walking, studying, and teaching his people about agriculture.

I was saddened that King Bhumibol never became a Christian. The Thai constitution imposed that the king must be a Buddhist. Nevertheless, I always thank God that I was born and grew up during his time on the throne. King Bhumibol was a great king for the kingdom of Thailand.

Fasting for the King

Thai Christians all over Thailand will fast and mourn for the king on December 5, which would have been his 89th birthday. The churches of Christ in the country agreed to honor him by holding a one-day fast for him and for the country. Some Thai Christians in America want to join this fasting occasion. We will also plea with God to keep the country peaceful after the one-year mourning period is over and that we do not have a civil war among the left and the right wings. We do not want to be like Syria.

A few years ago Thailand suffered an uprising in Bangkok that spilled countrywide. We fasted asking God to help keep and heal the country.

Another purpose for fasting this time is to ask God to provide new workers spreading of the Gospel in this new era of Thailand. Join with us if you will.

Even the Camp Affected

October 10-14 we had our annual family camp in the Amnat Charoen province. About 260 Christians attended. During that time, when the news that the king had passed away on the evening of 13th the campers grieved. The hearts of the Thai people and the campers were so saddened that we could not even have the fun campfire planned that evening. All activities had to stop.

However, we thank God that we had two new Christians baptized at the camp.

Laos Preparation

We are now in the process of translating all my Thai written, translated, and compiled books into the Laotian language. It will take about five years to complete almost ninety books.

Laos is not ready for freedom in religion yet. Almost ten years ago, our Laos brethren were jailed for one year and three months for worshipping and studying God's Word. We have more than one hundred Christians in Laos but they still cannot worship freely today like we can in Thailand. The day will come when Communist Laos will open up more, and we want to be ready to go in immediately with all the Laos materials.