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Thailand and back again!

1 message

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February 2024

Herb & Debbie Lamp



After our last two months of travel to Central and SE-Asia, we are glad to be home for the next couple of months.

Stateside in February for Local Ministry



Some of you may remember that when we went to Eastern Europe in 1984 it was to serve at a Bible school for Slavic people. That was what we like to call our first "career" in missions.

Member Care came later. Through all the years Herb never lost his love of and gift for teaching. So, it is with great pleasure that he has this opportunity. Every Sunday in February (skipping Super Bowl Sunday, of course), **Herb will teach** a series at our local church on the book of Job, entitled "**The Gospel According to Job.**" It is a four-part series on how to respond well to suffering and injustice in our lives. The bulletin blurb reads:

"He was a successful, faithful man who lost everything. His pain was as human as our own, his losses as devastating as any we will face. The Gospel

according to Job is an honest look at suffering and God's sufficiency amid it. Job teaches us that it is all right to doubt, be confused, get angry – in short to be completely human. But in our humanness, we must always like Job, give ourselves to God . . . even when it seems heaven has turned its back."

Reach Beyond (formerly HCJB Radio) serves as the voice and hands of Jesus to declare and demon-strate each day. Jesus Christ through media, healthcare, and community development



to unreached people groups across the world. They have sending offices in seven countries. From **February 12-14**, we have been asked to lead their leadership and staff through our retreat book, The Prodigal. This will be quite different from how we have led this previously. Instead of three sections over one day, we will take one section at a time three days in a row. Since Reach Beyond staff are spread around the world and funding is low, it is going to be an online retreat—a first for us! And, because of time zones differences, we will need to host two separate groups (1 morning & 1 evening) in three-hour sessions. Needless to say, this will be an adventure

For several years now, leading up to Lent, Herb has served with **Anam Cara Ministries in their *Retreat in Daily Life***. This is a week-long retreat experience in the midst of one's regular, everyday life.

The participants are supported by



readings, Scripture passages, guided prayer, and a daily time with a spiritual director. Herb will serve as a spiritual director, usually for about three people, in daily half hour sessions for five days. Some prefer to meet online, some in person. **Dates this year are February 18-24.**

God at Work

Thank you for praying for our trip to Thailand last month! We know you were praying. So many good things happened. We had great flights over and back (no big surprises), the location where we stayed was a perfect place for

people to come to meet with us, though we did Grab Taxi (like Uber) out to the family with kiddos. And...we did not come home sick on this trip. Big YAY! Best of all we sat face to face, listened to the stories of their lives and offered words of encouragement.



Just a few of the workers we visited that first week

Stories we heard:

In Thailand, the people movement for Jesus continues to see the mostly Buddhist Thai people decide to believe in Jesus. In village after village small house churches are being planted. We were told that in one Thai district (like a state) alone thousands of village house churches now exist where none existed before. We pastor the President and his wife of the organization that leads this work. He is a true apostle to the Thai people.

Another young family we pastor who are based in Thailand are contemplating a possible move to the Philippines this spring. Their ministry in Christian education and teacher training has become so successful in the Philippines that the churches are urging them to come and train potentially thousands more.

And finally, from the large numbers to the one number. We shepherd a young single Hmong American pastor (but married a few days after we saw him) who travels to one certain small Hmong village twice a month to preach at a house church of fifteen people. But guess what? In the past year that

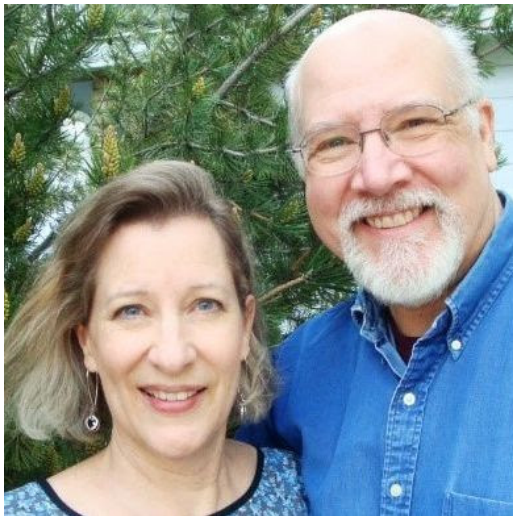
church has not only led four new families to Christ but is in the process of installing one of their members as a the new leading elder. A significant step. This means our friend can move on to another village soon. He told us an amazing story. One of the four new families that have come to Christ in the last few months consists of a grandmother and her five-year old grandchild. The grandmother's daughter married and had two young children, a boy aged 8, and a girl aged 5. Because her husband was abusive, the daughter divorced him, but in a rage the ex-husband took the mother and children out to a field and shot them all and then killed himself. Only the five-year old survived. When this little girl got out of the hospital she came to live with her grandmother in this village. There they heard that God loves them, and the hope for a new life, which promptly sent them into the arms of our Savior. God at work. Marvelous isn't it!



During the SEND ARES Soul Care retreat, we provided pastoral counseling to many of SENDs Southeast Asia global workers. Daniel Hahn, the morning speaker spoke deeply to our hearts; afternoons we met one-on-one with a cross section of missionaries. A personal highlight for us was that the speaker quoted from Herb's book, Journey with Me. A special treat for Debbie was seeing two women who had attended an EWI training in past years. Bottom right is Wilma, a Philippina women. What a reunion we had!

Praise and Prayer Notes . . .

- **Please pray with us for our ministries at home which are listed above.** Pray for strength, wisdom, no technical difficulties, relationship building, and especially the ability to encourage people in the Lord.
- **Please praise God for the work He is doing in Thailand.** Take a moment to pray for the new believers and churches being established there. It truly is remarkable.
- **Finally, thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.** As we mentioned last month, if you are reading this to the end, we want you to know that we will have some important announcements about ourselves coming next month in our March update. We deeply, deeply appreciate how faithful each of you are in giving and praying.



With much joy and gratitude in Jesus!

Herb & Debbie

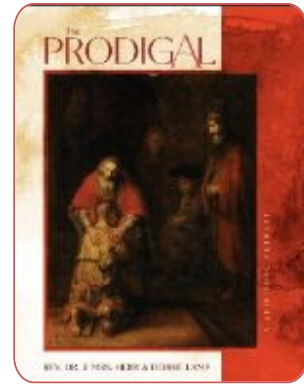
The Lamps

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Lamp's Facebook: see link below

If one of your goals for 2024 is to spend a day in retreat with the Lord, please consider The Prodigal: A Spiritual Retreat.



Buy on Amazon: The Prodigal: A Spiritual Retreat

Buy for 99 cents: The Prodigal Digital Companion (links to all the music & video)

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