

Paul and Sarah Brown

Thanksgiving

December 2019

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In the last few months, we have had the opportunity to explore and learn more about the hill tribes we work with, which will also help us in the future as we set up the Business as Mission (BAM). Over the years we have visited Chiang Mai, for conferences and meetings, but never had the time to explore this amazing city in depth. We are very thankful we are having the opportunity to do this.

In October, we attended the annual Thailand Baptist Missionary Fellowship (TBMF) Conference. It was great to see and catch up with missionary friends from Thailand, USA, Australia, Netherlands and China. Sarah has been on the planning committee for the conference for the last 2 years and this last year was the chairperson, she was kept very busy in the run-up to and during the conference, MC during the conference and ensuring everything ran smoothly. Paul was kept busy playing bass in worship and organising the film night.

This year's theme was ***"Living for God's Glory, Easy or Hard"***. We were reminded that although it is difficult living for God, it is not joyless. We were encouraged by Paul letters in Philippians, where he wrote his most joyful letter while suffering persecution. We will still face hardship, but when the glory of God is our focus, living for Him becomes the source of our joy rather than a chore.

There was free time and a games night for everyone to let off steam including a Photo Scavenger hunt that brought out the competitiveness in all the teams and the games night making people pull the silliest faces, do the most beautiful drawing and eat the most crackers. It was a blessed and refreshing time had by all including the children who had lots of fun while learning God's word. They were led and looked after by Evangelical Church Bangkok (ECB) Children's Ministry, the church we used to attend in Bangkok.



We were once again blessed to have some friends visit us from Bangkok, they were part of our Life Group from ECB and have also helped us a lot in the development stages of the BAM company. We took 1 week off, giving us the opportunity to explore some of the most amazing parts of Chiang Mai and spend quality time with them and their 3 children. We completed a hiking trail, drove up to Mon Jam mountain that overlooks gorgeous flower and rice fields, Huay Tung Tao a magnificent mountain that stretches along a wide lake with individual huts to relax and eat lunch. It was wonderful to catch up with them, listen and encourage each other in the journey's we are facing.



Our friendships at NLCF are growing stronger. In November, one of our Lahu friends and work colleague invited us to attend a Lahu Thanksgiving service in her village. It was an opportunity for us to further understand and see the hill tribe's way of life. After a 2-hour drive up into the mountains, we were greeted with lovely cool weather, stunning views and lush green scenery. Made even more special to be with about 10 churches from the local community that came together across 3 other hill tribe groups called Akha, Lisu & Karen to worship together and give thanks.



Attending the Lahu Thanksgiving service, we were expecting it to only be Lahu's worshipping together. So, it was a wonderful surprise to witness a mix of hill tribes worshipping the Lord together in their own native tribal languages and a beautiful array of tribal costumes.

We also discovered that unlike written Thai that derived from the south Indian Pallava alphabet, written Lahu uses Latin script. Which meant we were able to sing some of the Lahu songs with them. It was an amazing experience and Sarah was honoured to wear the traditional costume called Lahu Na (Black Lahu) Pa tong (long skirt).



-Thank you for your prayers our visas have been approved for the next 2 months.

Pray:

- For the girls at NLCF shelter to make wise decisions, that staff will be able to guide with Godly counsel.

- NLCF's Bible Camp at the beginning of December will be a refreshing time for all who attend.

-For *Nancy with AIDS, facing daily challenges and learning to trust people.

-As we reach out to people over the Christmas period

We will be on Home Assignment next year and hope to be available for Church speaking engagements from the end of May to mid-July 2020. Please contact BMS to arrange for us to visit. Thank you for your continued prayers, support and encouragement, it means so much to us.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." – 1 Chronicles 16:34

Yours in Christ

Paul & Sarah

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 247 Partners leaflet.



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