

# CONE FAMILY

## MISSIONS TRIP | STUDENTS | BIBLE STUDY



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#### Dear Pastors and Praying Friends,

It still seems that we are in the midst of a never-ending whirlwind returning to Thailand. We say that not in a negative light but in a way that one may understand nothing has been routine. We have been able to purchase a good used car that suits our current family demographic. We know a few who helped in that matter directly, and we truly thank you for giving so sacrificially to help meet that need. Adjusting to a new schedule while also creating a weekly timeframe to be able to communicate with our children has been both helpful and encouraging to us as parents. We still miss our children terribly but with the busyness of the ministry, the sad times are less frequent as time moves on. We enjoy sharing with them any updates as we know they have been instrumental in laying a foundation for this new church plant.

In March, we began Bible studies and English classes in our home. We have had non-Christians as well as a few Christians come to our home. It never ceases to amaze me the amount of Christian faith that most Americans find commonplace, but most Thai people have never heard about. The experiences that most of us share about going to Sunday School, hearing about Sunday School or even having a minuscule understanding of Sunday School is completely foreign to the Thai people. We truly are blessed people!

Anytime anyone visits our home our goal is for them to have the best experience possible. One of our main focuses is providing an amazing snack or meal so they will be compelled to come again. My wife is the driving force to be the best hosts we can be. At one of our Bible studies, she made cupcakes. When the English lesson and the Bible study were over it was time for the strawberry cupcake parade to come to the table. One young student said she didn't like cupcakes. I was amazed how someone would not like cupcakes. I then reacted to the girl how is it humanly possible to not like cupcakes? Her answer astonished me and yet taught me a great lesson. She said she had never had a cupcake before. She didn't know for sure if she did or didn't like it because she had never tasted a cupcake. We are ministering to a vast majority of people who have never heard of Jesus Christ. They don't know how good God is because they have never understood the goodness of God. They don't even know anyone else who has experienced the Savior's free gift of salvation.

In April, we had the privilege of attending our BIMI SE Asia conference. The messages were encouraging, uplifting, and challenging. We enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with missionaries from all over SE Asia. Our director, Stephen Maldoff, and his wife Christy have been a huge blessing and are our cheerleaders. We enjoy every chance we get to fellowship with them. Getting to catch up on life, ministry, and family is always a plus.

We also celebrated Song Kran, our Thai New Year, and water festival with some amazing people at Bang Jak Baptist Church. We had lunch together, played some games, and then went outside to throw water at each other.

We continue to have some random issues with our home. We ran into another water leak issue which resulted in some not-very-pretty aesthetics being placed in our home to bypass the current installed water lines that no one can see. This is not a very pretty sight but nonetheless, it is a work-around of the problem. It allows us to have water in our home without any issues. Please pray with us that we don't run into any more issues with our home. It is not only frustrating for us, but also for our landlord.

In May, we were blessed to be able to host some missionary families in our home. Some came to Bangkok to renew their missionary visas, some transitioned through Bangkok to connect to their furlough flights, and others by way of welcoming them back from furlough. We truly see this as a ministry in and of itself. We all need encouragement, a time to build each other up, and also a good meal that memories and laughter can be created around.

Please pray as Hudson will enroll in Crown College in the fall. One of the things you never think about is the life events your children will have while you are on the field. Pray that There could be a way that we could afford the time and expenses to travel back to the States to help Hudson transition to this next stage of his life.

Please pray as we are at the beginning stages of our church plant. We have learned that maybe we should have waited for a building or should have waited until after the Thai New Year. However, we just press on even if it is just 1-2 students. We have seen upwards of 7 students come at one time. Pray that God will put in our paths people who are both searching for truth and key people who will become future pillars of the church. Also, pray that we can find a building soon that we can afford. It seems as though many people are reluctant to join us in our home to learn about the Bible or English. Yet they show a great interest in joining us one day in our building. Pray as God prepares the way for a new church in Bang Phli Thailand. In this together for the cause of Christ,

**Brian P. Cone**