

First Step Ministries, Inc.

Rev. Lawrence E. Blakeslee

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Five Weeks in Southeast Asia, Thailand, Burma & Singapore

**Jesus Is The
Reason for
the Season.**

Merry Christmas

*Have a terrific
Christmas this year.
Enjoy this special
season of celebrat-
ing Jesus' birth with
those you love.*

*My Blessings,
Larry Blakeslee*

Ministry In Asia

On 9 January 2007, I will be leaving for a five week ministry trip to Southeast Asia returning to Germany on 14 February.

Most of the time will be spent ministering in the region of Northern Thailand. One week will be devoted to teaching on "How to Be Led by the Holy Spirit". In their new bible school

Remember the Albrecht's have a boys and girls orphanage in Burma in addition to their other vocational projects in Thailand. So the Lord has the opportunity to minister to these children in a very direct way. Plus, it gives me a chance to reinforce in the children, how much our Heavenly Father truly loves them and to find and develop the potential He has placed in them.



Prayer with a local pastor just before baptism in the local "Jordan River" in Thailand.

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Southeast Asia Trip Goals

- Teach one week of "How to Be Led by the Holy Spirit" in the new bible school.
- Teach the Kid's Prayer program to a 100+ kids at the Mae Sai orphanage.
- Minister to local pastors in the Hill Tribes area.
- Minister to the children at the orphanage in Burma.
- Formal and informal evangelistic healing meetings.
- Explore possible other future ministry opportunities in Southeast Asia.
- Explore possible future children's program development with Trans World Radio / Singapore.
- Attend a regional coordinators meeting of the "30 Days of Prayer" a worldwide Muslim prayer outreach ministry.
- Network with Rhema Singapore for Grads to teach in the Mae Sai bible school.

Update — Thailand

New Thai Bible School Established

In the last newsletter you read about Thomas and Esther Albrecht in Mae Sai, Thailand. They run girls and boys orphanages and a vocational training center in the area. Not that those projects don't keep them busy enough, Thomas is now also involved in a startup bible school.

Thomas' brother-in-law, Solomon, had planned on starting the bible school during the summer. Someone else was going to run the school but at the last minute they had a change of heart and decided not to do it.

Fortunately or unfortunately, at this point, there were twelve students already on their way to attend school the following week. The students had already made arrangements to take care of their families during their absence and received their visas from Myanmar (Burma) and Laos to attend school in Thailand. A minor miracle in itself.

Not wanting to disappoint the new and excited students or more importantly in the Asian culture, have them loose face with their friends and relatives, some of which are non-Believer's, Thomas called me early one morning to seek prayer and advice about this new development.

With the tremendous help of Pastor Bill Whitlow of Biltmore Bible Church in Phoenix, Arizona, we were able to provide Thomas a complete four year bible school curriculum.

Pastor Bill shipped the curriculum to me in Germany; in turn I copied enough to get school started, shipped that to them and will bring the balance of the materials with me when I go in January.

The school started on time but a few weeks later they had to stop classes for a week because the new government required some new and addi-



A Letter To My Friends and Supporters

I pray that all of you have a wonderful Christmas and a great New Year in 2007.

Thank you for your prayers always, especially this past year as I continue to seek God and do His will.

Larry

tional paperwork. This was a result of the change of government after bloodless coup a few weeks before.

School is back on track and the students are back to their normal schedule of classes five days a week.

Ministry In Asia (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

Also planned are trips to minister to the pastors and local churches in the Hill Tribes area that border the "Golden Triangle" region of Thailand. Plus minister to about 100 children in an orphanage in Mae Sai, Thailand.

Mae Sai borders Myanmar (Burma) and Laos. Myanmar, like Thailand is primarily a Buddhist country. Laos is communist. There are many small villages with local pastors that never have visitors or someone praying for or encouraging them. These villages are without electricity and running water. They live at an extreme rural subsistence living lifestyle. So I will be "roughing it". That part of the trip will be much like my trip to Mongolia back in April 2003.

"Myanmar, like Thailand is primarily a Buddhist country. Laos is communist."

I am looking forward the entire trip with great hope and expectation that The Lord will use me to share His love with His people there.

Due to government restrictions, many times ministry will take place in "informal gatherings". I look forward to being able to pray for the sick and see God's healing ministered directly to them.

It is going to be a time of increased spiritual growth for me. The trip has the potential to have some interesting challenges or "opportunities". If you feel led to pray for me during this trip, please pray for me. I will certainly receive all of them. This is the most important thing I can ask of you.



Time of Refreshing Conference — Leysin, Switzerland

For a few days in October, I was able to attend a conference for American missionaries living in Europe. The conference was held in Leysin, Switzerland which is near Lausanne. For the past 27 years a group from America comes over once a year to bless missionaries working in Europe.

These conferences represent a large variety of Pentecostal denominations. Overall, the conference was unbelievable. I can't remember anytime before that I had laughed and cried so much in three days. During the group



“I can't remember a time that I laughed and cried so much in three days.”

(Above)
“Where's Waldo?”
No, just the TOR
“class” photo.



(Above) Praying for each other in small groups.
(Lt) Incredible times of Praise & Worship



sessions, we would be laughing at something silly and then in a little while just crying before the Lord as the Holy Spirit ministered to us collectively and individually. Incredible.

The Praise & Worship was led by a lady named Vangi from South Africa. Her ability to usher in the anointing of the Holy Spirit was amazing. Vangi led us in some new songs and some great old hymns. The group would spontaneously break out in harmony which was heavenly to hear. All 100+ of us could hardly wait to begin each session. Attendees of past conferences told me that this happened every year and something they looked forward to participating in each year.

One of the nicest blessings and surprises was from the time you arrived at the front door of the hotel, a member of the TOR Team from America was available to help you from the beginning to the end of the conference. They all had servant's hearts and it was clear they were as blessed to give as we were to receive.

Happenings in The Netherlands



Dutch Rhema Day

Early in September, Rhema Europe conducted a Saturday afternoon luncheon and casual meeting in The Netherlands. Bernard and Claudia Jansen organized and hosted the event for Rhema Grads and anyone interested in being a part of the group. Nearly sixty people, with a variety of backgrounds and ministries attended.

During this time some a few local Dutch pastors expressed an interest in the Kid's Prayer program. I will be following up with them in the future.



Some of the Dutch Rhema Day attendees meeting near Utrecht, Holland (Lt, Rt, & Below)



"Past & Present"
Windmills still perform important functions for the Dutch.



De Banier Church Almelo, The Netherlands

Since I was in The Netherlands for the Dutch Rhema Day, I was able to attend Sunday service at "De Banier" in the City of Almelo. This might be my favorite Dutch church. They have tremendous Praise & Worship and excellent sermons. They always have a warm welcome for visitors. It was great to go back and visit some old friends and make some new ones.



My very close Dutch friends, Bernard and Claudia Jansen.

Pastors Bill and Donna Whitlow



Pastors Bill and Donna Whitlow
Biltmore Bible Church
Phoenix, Arizona

A special thanks to Pastors Bill and Donna Whitlow for providing, free of charge, the four year accredited bible school curriculum to the bible school in Thailand.

The Whitlows understand the challenges of being a missionary since they have served for years in the Caribbean and have been in the ministry for over 50 years.

Years ago while on the mission field, Pastor Bill identified a need to have a "pre-packaged" curriculum available to help established bible schools at remote mission stations. He has been a blessing to literally thousands of people wanting to formalize their understanding of God's Word.

Pastor Bill and Donna, you have been a blessing to me and my sons for over 25 years. You continue to be a blessing to the Body of Christ.

May God Bless you a hundred fold for your service to the Body of Christ.

Time of Refreshing (Cont'd)

(Lt to Rt) Making New Friends, Judy Hamilton, Larry Blakeslee, Jim Hamilton. The Hamilton's were part of the U.S. Team that came to Switzerland.



(Above & Below) The last morning together, saying "goodbyes", exchanging contact info, email addresses and "just chillin'".



Time of Refreshing Founders, Pastor William and Emogene Kaiser



(Below) Thai Street Kids & Typical Local Thai Church



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My Family Corner



William's Graduation from U.S.C.G. Tech. School

On October 20, William graduated from his Coast Guard Avionics Tech School in Elizabeth City, South Carolina. He had been attending school there since June. Not only did he successfully graduate, William was selected to receive the "Honors Grad" Award as the top Coast Guardsman in the class.

"This is my Uncle William and my hero. I love a man in uniform!"



(Above) William and Antonella Blakeslee

Support Information

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"William was selected to receive the "Honors Grad" Award..."

He was also able to get his first choice for his permanent duty station. He is now assigned to U.S. Coast Guard Station Clearwater located in Clearwater, Florida

He and his wife Stephanie have moved to Clearwater and are settling in for the long haul. They are happy to be reunited again since Stephanie was not able to be with William in Elizabeth City, while he was attending school there.

Shawn's New Business

Shawn's new remodeling and construction business is doing great. He has a couple of young men helping him on various projects. God has given him tremendous favor and opened some great doors for him. He is blessed and a blessing to his customers.



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