



First Step Ministries, Inc.

Rev. Lawrence E. Blakeslee

FEBRUARY 2007

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

Southeast Asia Report Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Red China & Laos

Travel Facts

Days: 37
Longest Single Leg:
 26 hours, Door to Door
Miles Traveled:
 14, 220+ statute miles
 22,880+ km
Countries Visited:
 Singapore
 Thailand
 Myanmar
 Red China
 Laos
 England
Currencies:
 Singaporean Dollar
 Thai Bhat
 Myanmar Kyat
 Chinese Yen
 British Pound

An Overview

I recently returned to Germany after five weeks of ministry in Asia. And tomorrow I leave for my annual trip to the United States. With so much to tell and so little time to tell it, this newsletter will be focused on more pictures and captions, than on text.

Armed with my new little Canon camera, I took 1,600+ pictures, traveled nearly 15,000 miles and visited five countries. So there are lots of people and things to see and equally as many stories to tell.

Asia forces you to a level of time flexibility you don't necessarily live in the "West". In fact it is probably the exact opposite. I soon found out that time and or appointments, no matter how "pre-planned" are all "relative". Some of the pre-planned events didn't happen because of various influences that were out of anyone's control and at times that was disappointing. But pressing on, it was a great opportunity to minister to a number of groups, in a variety of ways.

Anyway, I hope you enjoy the pictures and short narratives of the trip. There will be more information and pictures in the next newsletter.

Thank You
My heartfelt thanks to the my prayer and financial supporters whose prayers and generosity made this this trip possible and continues to allow me to minister to people overseas. May God Bless You.
Lawrence

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(Above) Larry Blakeslee checking out a map of his destinations in Southeast Asia.
 (Left) An up close look at region of northern Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and Red China



Singapore & Mae Sai, Thailand 30 Days, Trans World Radio & Bible School

Singapore — 30 Days of Prayer

My first week on this trip was spent with the 30 Days of Prayer, Asia Coordinators. I was blessed beyond my expectation. Meeting these people was truly a humbling experience. They work very low profile for obvious reasons. They are dedicated to bringing awareness to all Christians to pray for Muslims and that God loves the Muslims as much as He loves any other people group.

By the time our meetings were over and I got to know their hearts, they reminded me of other unknown, nearly invisible missionaries and ministries that are following God's plan for their lives without a lot of public admiration, visibility, or support. Yet, they "troupe on", day after day, going forward, answering the Call of God on their lives. Fulfilling His plan to the best of their ability.

"Thank You" to the 30 Days people that allowed me to come and be a small part of you and your mission. My prayers will always be with you and your fellow coordinators through-out the world.

Singapore — Trans World Radio

The evening before I was to leave Singapore for Bangkok and on to Mae Sai, Thailand, I met with my Trans World Radio contact, a program developer named Andrew Sundar. For a few hours, we exchanged thoughts, information and ideas as we explored the possibility of broadcasting the Children's Prayer program on TWR shortwave broadcasts in the South-east Asia.

As in any first serious face to face meeting, we established the goals and objectives of this project. My heart is still fixed on doing this program for the Mongolian children. As nomadic children, living in the Mongolian countryside, they are a perfect audience to receive these lessons. Yet as Andrew and I discussed the needs of Asian children, he educated me on the

(Continued on page 4)



Mae Sai, Thailand — Bible School

As scheduled I arrived in Mae Sai after a very long day of travel from Singapore to Bangkok with a seven and half hour layover at BKK, the new huge airport on the outskirts of Bangkok. I finally boarded a regional airline and flew north and on to Chiang Rai airport, which is the nearest commercial airport near Mae Sai.

The day after my arrival, Thomas Albrecht, asked me if I would teach a class the next day, Thursday and also on Friday. I wasn't really prepared for the additional teaching time before my "scheduled" week but I agreed, since that was one of my main reasons for being in Mae Sai. It turned out that since all the students are either orphans or children of prostitutes, I taught on God's Love. It turned out to be a great lead-in to Friday's teaching on Divine Healing and the Blood Covenant.

The following week I taught three hours per day, Monday through Friday on "Being Led by the Holy Spirit". The Holy Spirit showed up and ministered to them, it was a blessing for me as well. I look forward to returning in the future.

(Left: Top, Mid, Bottom) Victor leads his Asia Coordinators of the 30 Days of Prayer program for Muslims.

(Above) Larry teaching the bible school students as Esther Albrecht translates.

Tachilek, Myanmar

Children's Homes



The children's homes are located in Tachilek, Myanmar, the border town to Mae Sai, Thailand. Thomas and I visited each of the three homes. It was great to minister to the kids but we didn't have nearly enough time. I wished that I spoke Ahka, the tribal language, in order to communicate to them directly. But children are children and there are always ways to communicate God's love for them non-verbally.

While on the road trip in Myanmar, Thomas got great news that an overseas group was going to fund the construction of a new two-story building on the property shown here. This new building is needed to house additional girls and will be constructed on a higher elevation on the property to avoid the problems of flooding they recently experienced in their current building.

Our time at the homes went by quickly and we needed to make our way back to the border before it closed at 17:00. Otherwise we would have to stay on the Myanmar side of the border for the night. Something we were not prepared to do.

We found out a few days after our visit to the last home which housed the boys, that the local police arrived at the home and asked a number of questions about why the Westerners were seen there. Myanmar is not Communist but is still a very controlled country. Travel by tourists and national's alike is absolutely controlled and done only with permission and roadside checkpoints. Over time, there has been instilled a tremendous distrust and suspicion among themselves and especially when strangers are seen in "non-touristy" areas.



(Top) Haircut Day at the Boy's Home.

(Left) Typical Children's Dorm Room

(Below) One of the Girl's Homes

(Below Lt) Girl's Playing

(Below Rt) Typical Asian Kitchen



Red China & Laos Pray On The Land

Red China Prayer

During this trip I had the opportunity to cross over the Myanmar border into Red China. This area is located just before arriving at the Chinese Immigration and Customs checkpoint, so it was not necessary to have a Tourist Visa for China here. Thomas Albrecht, a local pastor and his wife and I were able to pray on the China side of the border for a period of time. Our prayers were focused mainly on and for the Believers in China.



(Above) Thomas Albrecht and Larry praying on the China side of the border with Myanmar.
(Left) Larry at The Golden Triangle on the Mekong River.

Laos, Golden Triangle — Prayer

Just a few days before my departure from Mae Sai, Thailand to return home; an opportunity allowed me a short day trip to the Golden Triangle area of Thailand. This is a “touristy” area where the borders of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos meet at the Mekong River. My goal was to take a short boat trip over to the other side of the river and pray in Laos itself. The Communist government allows tourists to visit the open air market across the river, without a Tourist Visa, so they can shop for locally made souvenirs and trinkets. Since your time at the market is regulated and your boatman waits specifically for you to return to your original boat for the crossing back to Thailand; there is no chance of entering the country beyond the market without being noticed or missed.

Again, like in China, my purpose was to put my feet on the ground in Laos and again pray for the Laotian Believers and the underground church located in Laos.

Trans World Radio (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 2)

overwhelming needs in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos. He broadened my understanding of the need in Asia. Andrew was a wealth of information and details about ministering in Asia. We came to the conclusion that there was going to be a lot of communication exchanged between us in the future before we would have the first program produced.

Many of you know of my past broadcasting background, so there is no “romance” involved in producing either a radio or television programming. It is a tremendous amount of work on the part of many people to be effective. So clearly ego is not a part of my decision making process.

Since there will be production costs to create these programs, I am seeking God’s perfect plan, timing and finances to do this. He’ll have to finance this one too, if He wants it done.

The Trip Picture Page



(Top) Larry with some Ahka Tribe village children.
(Middle) The Wait staff at our local eatery in Myanmar.
(Bottom) Locals attending Saturday Bible school in Myanmar.

(Top) Typical Open Air Day Market in Myanmar.
(Middle) Horns, hooves, tails and toe nails sold for "medicinal" and even occult spiritual purposes.
(Bottom) REAL FRESH meat for sale.

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The Trip Picture Page (Cont'd)

Security Note

You may have noticed that in many of my pictures you may not see the faces of the people in the shots. Or their faces are blurred out. The reason for this is security.

In these cases, either the participants have requested their face not be shown or for the children, it is for their own protection. In the case of the bible school students, it is for their protection from the governments of the countries that the students reside and will return to after completion of their training in Thailand. Thanks for your understanding their situation.

Lawrence Blakeslee

Support Information

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(Top) Worker exams our washed out road.
 (Mid) "Hoofing" it across temporary bridge.
 (Bot) "Snakes On A Plane?" No, in a bottle.

(Top) "Experienced"
 (Mid) "No Experience"
 (Bot) Typical Village Home

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