



Yawa News - March 2022

Australia to Thailand

To our dear friends who have been walking the journey with us,

Some of you have walked with us all the way and others joined along the route - yet we are so thankful for you all.

We have been partners together with you in God's Kingdom Business and seen God at work in many ways.

Names have changed but the same "company" on behalf of Australian Baptist churches seeking to share Jesus with the world.

**AUSTRALIAN BAPTIST
MISSIONARY SOCIETY
A.B.M.S.**



Jan went to Thailand with **ABMS**, in 1977
as a nurse at the Kwai River Christian Hospital

2002 -2021 we became
Global Interaction

Now from November 2021- officially launched
in 2022 we are **Baptist Mission Australia**

Finally we are able to write to you to let you know we have arrived back on Thai soil !!!
We returned to Australia in mid 2019 for a 7-month home assignment and preparing to return in January 2020 we were asked to stay a bit longer with our support a little below 100%. The delay took us into the world pandemic shut-down! Travel restrictions, COVID, and some health matters have kept us waiting an appropriate time to return. December looked promising and we made bookings but when Omicron was just starting to take off it seemed better to cancel and watch a bit longer. With our booster vaccinations completed (and now Jan's had her 4th as a vulnerable person) it looked like Thailand was escaping a big surge so all plans lined up to fly to Thailand Monday 7th March with the benefit of only 1 day quarantine to get a negative PCR. However, Thailand is now in a surge pattern including our local Sangklaburi area so value you ongoing prayer for our health and safety. Masks are worn by 100% of people & in almost every setting (except eating), even News presenters are masked all the time now.

We can see that our movement will be quite restricted for some more time to come so we won't be able to do all the things we planned - pray that we and our team can still support people as much as possible and safe for both sides.

May Mission Month

<<<< **It's only March but May Mission Month is coming** >>>>

We are so thankful for all who have had a part in supporting our Ministry Project for Lanternlight Ministries in the past and again we can only continue this caring work with people with disabilities in rural Thailand through caring hearts of those who can support this ongoing work.

We value the giving of individuals, groups and churches that see this as part of your own outreach to those in need - being the practical hands and feet of Jesus through the work that we can do on your behalf.

To find out more head to the website :

<https://www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/Support/Projects/EthnicThai/Lanternlight-Ministries>

If anyone wants more information feel free to write and ask.

After we get back to Sangkla we plan to add an updated video that will be available on the website.

An opportunity to sell some of the Lanternlight Crafts
- another way to help the ministry continue.



Lanternlight Ministries have continued through the challenges that COVID keeps presenting.



Restrictions meant no **Christmas** gatherings again. So gifts were delivered to over 170 homes, in the open air as far as possible. Even meant handing one set of gifts through the razor-wire border fence. Again gifts were mainly food - the need for people at this time. Work and daily hire is hard to find and no financial support means life is even more difficult for many.

Other care, visitation, official business, etc has kept the team active along with some special opportunities.

Rung Ruang was born blind & around the same time we had contact with the government blind school under royal patronage. We visited and were very impressed and took videos which we were able to show the family what the future could look like for him. He has been attending the local nursery program and fitted in very enthusiastically. However school would mean being away at boarding school so some natural concerns. Finally in November the school came with their minibus and teachers to collect him and the family - Rung's word's "Don't worry about me - I'm going off to school". See him in red immediately throwing himself into activities !!! The family are very musical & love singing in church so we hope he will have the opportunity to learn keyboard and guitar (as we saw others did). Pray this Christian family will be able encourage his faith journey while away.



During our 2½ years in Australia we've had some great opportunities to spend time with those who partner with us and others. We've joined at churches and on line.

We moved house and have become a part of Wollongong Baptist Church who have lovingly taken us to heart - prayed us off last Sunday.

Also kept close contact with our other church at Rouse Hill Baptist & joined recent celebrations.

Thanks :

- * Opportunity to return to ministries in Thailand.
- * The Lanternlight work that has continued while we've been in Australia.
- * Good scan results for Jan just before leaving and other health issues attended
- * House set-up issues kept Jit occupied in the waiting period.

Pray for :

- * Good and safe reunions when we arrive home in Sangklaburi early in the week.
- * COVID safety as we move into a region experiencing significant spikes but seems not too much serious illness. Jit has had x3 and Jan x4 vaccinations - pray effective.
- * Ongoing Lanternlight ministries and opportunities to show and tell God's love.
- * Good recommencement of ministry to men.
- * Future directions.
- * Anna who has got used to us being around & her teaching and ministries at school.

Our new contact details :

Phone in Thailand Jan +66 (0) 93 639 2590
Jit +66 (0) 93 639 2550

E-mail - jjayawan@gmail.com

Address : 68 Moo 5, NongLu, Sangklaburi, Kanchanaburi, Thailand, 71240
(Not using the hospital as it has now moved into town).

We can also use : FaceTime, WhatsApp, Line

We can set up Zoom if individuals or groups would like to arrange with us.

We had an opportunity for a short family break after Anna finished term and before the Christmas rush so we headed to the seaside town of Mollymook (Milton-Ulladulla).

Time to stroll the beach and record a few thoughts - I'll share those here :



More than Footprints in the Sand

Sun's up in a cloudless sky,
Rolling waves crash onto shifting sand,
Azure blue sea curling into snow white foam -
Glistening like diamonds in the sunshine.
Seagulls huddled, awaiting the rhythm of life.
Fellow strollers may greet or stare ahead.

As I walk my footprints add their impressions
To those of others who have gone before.
Then incessant - waves advancing - waves retreating
Wipe our footprints into past memories.
I walk away and my footprints may be gone,
But I travel on.....

I am more than footprints in the sand.
One day my life will become at those footprints,
But, may what I leave behind, be far more enduring -
Like diamonds that can't be carved by sea's erosion.
May those diamonds reflect the beauty of God's life in me.
God's beauty that can be found by those who dare to seek.



By Jan Yawan - written at Mollymook, NSW, 15th Dec 2021