



What's in This Newsletter?

Quick trip to Thailand, an Aussie hike, and a fun week in Fiji!!!

Trip to Thailand

This month, God gave me the opportunity to visit Thailand for the first time! I was able to run the youth program for **BIMI's Southeast Asia Field Conference**. While the parent missionaries were in sessions, I was able to speak to six missionary kids as well as play games, do activities, and share Aussie snacks with them. I believe it was an enjoyable, edifying time for them...and me as well!

I am thankful for witnessing opportunities on my trip. Waiting for my flight in Melbourne, I was able to speak to a **Hindu named Vabs**. I asked him if he had any spiritual beliefs and that question led to a conversation in which I was able to share Jesus with him. After I told him that Jesus' death on the cross was the greatest act of love ever, he asked me, "If I accept Christianity, do I have to leave my faith?" I told him that Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life." To that, he nodded his head and said, "It's time to get ready to board." It was sad to see him torn between Jesus and his culture and heritage.

On the first flight, I was able to chat with **an Irishman named Lawrence** who lives in Thailand. He is not religious although he had some background in the Catholic Church in Ireland. Throughout the conversation, I was able to speak about Jesus.

During the second flight, I sat next to a **guy named Dean**. He was an easy-going millennial with no dogmatic spiritual views. He has a Christian friend as well as Muslim friends. I shared with him about Jesus' resurrection, and if Jesus did rise from the dead, I would want to know what He had to say!

Flying from Bangkok to Chaing Mai on my last flight to the conference, I sat next to a **Thai lady and her young son**. She gave me insights into Thai religious culture. Unfortunately, Thailand is very Buddhist. However, she told me she wanted to put her son into a Christian school because of academics and that she was okay if he became a Christian as long as he had a faith. I was able to give the son a little optical illusion with some Bible verses on the back.

In Thailand, I noticed the Buddhist influence all over. As I walked the streets, I noticed little shrines for Buddhist prayers were common. In the large mall not far from the hotel, there was a huge space set aside for Buddhist shrines.

On my walk, I was able to talk to an artist who was selling art on the footpath. He told me his name was **Kae-Lae-Suh** (at least, that is how it is pronounced) but that I could just call him Johnny. He was steeped in Buddhism, but I did tell him about Jesus.

Flying back to Melbourne, I had to apologize to God because I didn't try to get into a spiritual conversation with **the Kiwi** (someone from New Zealand) next to me until late in the flight. When I did talk to him, I found he was actually somewhat open to talking about spiritual things. I guess the good news is that I was able to point him to Christianity before we started to disembark. Thank God for these opportunities and seeds planted!

Aussie Hike

After Thailand, I was able to lead a Saturday youth outing for the Calvary young people. We went hiking, saw a couple waterfalls, and went for pizza, but getting to connect with each other was the best part. Please pray for the youth at Calvary. As you know, it is a challenging time to be a godly young person and to have a godly family in today's world.

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Fun in Fiji

Next, I flew out to Fiji for the first time! Going over, I was seated next to a **Fijian man named Osbourne**. He told me he was a Christian attending church in Melbourne, and we had a good chat about life, family, and Fiji. I was able to give him my card and hope he'll visit my church sometime.

In Fiji, I attended **BIMI's South Pacific Field Conference** where I was able to attend the sessions this time, give a brief ministry update, and hear the other missionaries' updates and the preaching. It was a blessing to hear what God is doing in the region and to see the Fijian believers at church on Wednesday!

After the conference, I visited **Glory Gate Baptist Church and School**, a ministry that my church in Melbourne supports. During my stay, I was able to play rugby with the boarding students on the sand dunes of Sigatoka where the pro rugby players go to work out, share the evening devotion, teach two chapels, lead the Friday youth activity, distribute tracts and go on visitation on Saturday, and preach twice on Sunday.

But the highlight of the weekend was talking to **Christian (in top right picture above)**. He is one of the boarding students. The Pastor and I were peeling cassava root for dinner, and he came over and began helping. Pastor Mani asked him about his salvation. He said he was unsure. Pastor Mani encouraged him to know for sure and when he left to take the cassava root inside, he said, "Talk to Pastor Josh. He will help you."

I walked through a gospel tract and some Bible verses with Christian, but he said, "I'm not sure I'm saved. I keep sinning." So I emphasized the fact that we do not have to work for our salvation and that even when we are saved, we live in a sin-cursed world and still deal with our sinful nature. Jesus will help us overcome our sin and one day take us to heaven to be free from sin.

The last Scripture I wanted to show him was Ephesians 2:8-10 to explain to him that we are saved by grace through faith and then we are ordained unto good works but we are not saved by good works. Well, I never got to verses 9-10. When he read verse 8, I could see a tear come to his eye. As I recall, he said, "It's by faith." It was the way he said it that made it special. It was like that "lightbulb" moment. What a blessing to hear him state his faith in Jesus!

Back in Melbourne

Now, I am back in Melbourne. I have a few **preaching responsibilities** here and there in the next couple of months as well as a one-day **youth conference** and a **young adults camp** to prepare for. If you would, please pray that we have good attendance for these events and that the Lord would use them to strengthen the saved and bring the lost to Him.

Thank you all for your love, prayers, and support! It's a blessing to minister in Australia and even beyond on your behalf. God bless!

P.S. For sake of privacy, please do not post online any pictures of people that may be included in this letter. Thank you!

In Christ,

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