

March 2016

Thailand Women's Ministry Newsletter

*"Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you
great and mighty things which you do not know."*

Jeremiah 33:3

Mary (Noi) 's Update

Dear Prayer Warriors,

I invited my family to a special farewell meal that I prepared for my co-workers on the 13th of February. Previously, I had invited them to other special occasion meals to show them God's love, hoping they would come to the saving knowledge of Christ, but it always turned out as "just sharing another good meal". I didn't want that to happen again, so on the morning of the 13th, I earnestly prayed to God to clearly reveal Himself to my family members. I wanted Him to do whatever was necessary to have them see that He is the only true and living God, so that they might accept Him and be saved.



After having said grace, but before eating, my nephew, Sombat, had a dreadful seizure which was the result of a brain injury from a fall ten days earlier. (He had not received treatment for the concussion he incurred from the original fall and went on to suffer headaches, high fever and a slight stroke causing his hands and legs to shake.) It appeared that he was going to die. Immediately, my co-workers and I continuously cried out to the Lord in prayer for his life because we were concerned for his salvation. I was claiming God's promise in Jeremiah 33:3. God answered our prayers; Sombat reached the hospital in time for treatment and God then performed the miracle of saving his life. He continues to suffer with herpes meningoencephalitis (a virus in the brain) as a result of the concussion.

During the first week of Sombat's treatment at the hospital, I witnessed about God's love and forgiveness to him and his mother daily. By the seventh day, I took the opportunity to challenge Varintorn (my niece) to return to the Lord as she had turned her back on Him twelve years ago. She had been trying to live a life based on her own strength and had failed in many ways, even in every job that she had tried to do. As a result, she was struggling economically. That evening, I assured her of God's love and forgiveness as well as of His compassion towards her and her brother. We then said goodnight to each other and were hoping to have a good night's rest for the first time in a week, but that did not happen.



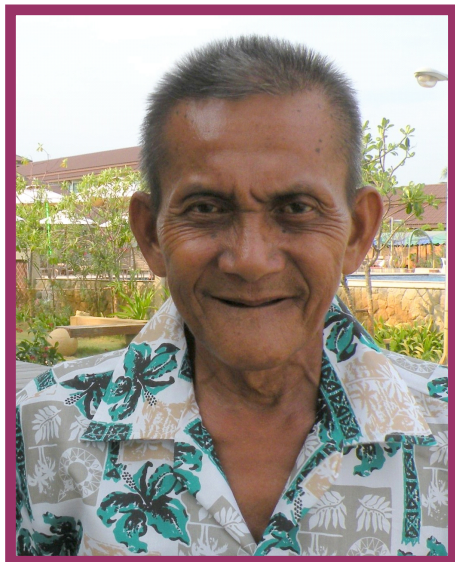
At about midnight on the 20th of February, my mentally ill brother stabbed my mother in the abdominal area with two knives, using one after the other countless times. Varintorn rushed to my place and woke me at 2:00am with the shocking news of this unexpected tragedy. Both of us were crushed emotionally and spiritually, especially when the doctor informed us that my mother might not survive. She had many cuts in her abdominal area, her intestines were gushing out and she had lost a lot of blood. Immediately, we prayed to God Almighty for her life with me claiming Jeremiah 33:3; my major concern was for her salvation. We prayed and prayed and prayed for a miracle! We then rushed to the airport to catch the first flight to the northeastern part of Thailand holding great hope to see that my mother would miraculously still be alive.

Two hours after the stabbing incident, my mother underwent a three-hour surgery. God performed a miracle as the surgery was successful. My mother regained consciousness shortly afterwards and the stab wounds had missed her important organs, even though my brother had been aiming for her heart! The stabbing had most certainly been the work of the devil, who comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10), however, we know that God is in charge and control of all situations. God's hand has been upon my family members in amazing ways. I praise the Lord for His sovereign control. His promise in Romans 8:28, always remains real and true and God will do all things for His own glory and honor (Romans 11:36).

God, in His faithfulness, has shown us something beautiful resulting from this tragedy. While my niece, Varintorn, was dealing with her brother who was in critical condition at the hospital, she received the news that her mentally ill father had stabbed her grandmother (my mother who helped raise her) and that her grandmother might not survive. These people were precious to her and she felt crushed and broken. Varintorn realized that all these incidents were related to the Lord calling her attention to Him. Without any hesitation, she knelt down to pray, confessed her sins and truly repented of them, and re-surrendered her life to the Lord, while asking God to save her grandmother's life.



I was greatly encouraged in the midst of these trials as I now had my niece to join me in prayer. God has been very present, answering our many prayers over these past four weeks that have been tough, painful, stressful, exhausting and filled with a sense of urgency. It was particularly difficult to visit my mother, brother, and nephew because they were located in different parts of the country, causing us to fly back and forth. We praise God for sustaining us.



As for my brother, Silp, he is still in the psychiatric hospital in the northeastern part of Thailand. God has graciously provided us with a Christian couple that occasionally visits him on our family's behalf. Hopefully, he will soon be transferred to a special care center in Korat, which is about three hours away from Bangkok. We can't wait to visit him again and we pray for his healing because he has been suffering with mental illness for the past 28 years.

The latest news is that my mother and nephew are out of critical care and are recovering (which may take quite some time) at my home in Bangkok. It is a family reunion by God's design and we are rejoicing for the opportunity to live together in one place for the time being. My niece and her mother have been a great help to me, as I have to make sure that everyone is fed and that their needs are taken care of in different areas. I see it as a great privilege to show them God's love in a tangible way while they all are suffering with pressing needs.



Back Row- Noi, Noi's niece-Varintorn, Noi's siser-in-law- Pwoung
Front Row- Noi's mother- Sawang, Noi's nephew- Sombat

We continue to pray for the salvation of my mother, brother, nephew and sister-in-law. Thank you brothers and sisters in Christ for reaching out to my family and me, in prayer and financial ways. I am encouraged with you standing by my side and I sense your love, care and prayer, every step of the way. To God be the glory!

In Him,
Chanaddah Chaisakorn

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