



Sawadee, from Thailand
Mengalabaa, from Myanmar
Greetings,

Another year is coming to an end. Last year we forgot to celebrate our tenth anniversary under International Ministries. How could we do that? Maybe it is because my wife Tan and I have been serving here as a family since 1993. But the times are changing with IM— we have a new logo along with new leadership to take missions into the future— this is good.

Reflecting on the Fruits of Our Service

Many of you have provided sustaining support for our missions and faithfully stand beside us year after year. Maybe it's good for us to reflect and think about changing with the times. The other day I was

feeling a bit nostalgic and asked God what has changed because of our years, actually decades, of service... and your many years of faithfully supporting us.

I know God has blessed us beyond what we could have expected. He has given us a wonderful family, the opportunity to raise our three children and to see them off into the world. We've watched gratefully as they have learned to love the Lord and to love others.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to help establish the Chiang Rai International Christian School. The school has thrived and today has become a real blessing for the community. We thank the Lord for that!

But what about the people of this region? After 30 years has God used us and our missions to achieve anything significant? Perhaps I shouldn't be questioning, yet the thought sometimes weighs on my mind.

Encouragement After Failures

Remember Boon, my friend who passed away over a year ago? Boon told me he admired my ability to continue to keep trying even though so much of what I tried to do had failed. Isn't that great? I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. (Boon's daughter and wife are doing very well. Thank you for your prayers for them.)

Then, last week, a Karen friend and Tan and I traveled up into the mountains outside of Chiang Rai to an area where a team of us had worked in the late 90s. For 6 years we tried to start a tribal farmers' cooperative. That was one of our 'failures'. We were unsuccessful in getting that cooperative going. Do you know what we found last week? One of our former staff, a partner of Boon's, has been managing a legally registered 600 member farmers' cooperative for the last eight years! It's up and running. These were the same people we had worked with years earlier. Thank you Lord for answering my question. All that work wasn't for nothing.

After that bit of encouragement, which I know was just for me, the real question remains; what does God really look for? I believe He looks at whether lives were touched and people have experienced the Love of Jesus.

Whether a project fails or all the cows die, may not be the point. God works beyond our understanding. We must continue to try to do our best and pray for God's blessing. We know that each of you has done that with the people around you and you have done that with us, through your prayers and your support for our family. Thank you. Thank you for not giving up!

Looking Ahead

As we expand our work in the Eastern Shan State, some specific ministry needs have come to our attention. We have much to do next year. Your continued support is so greatly appreciated. In addition, would you please consider inviting others to share in our work? We could sincerely use the help. They can give through the same IM channels you have been giving through. Thank you.

Finally, as the end of the year approaches and we remember our Lord Jesus' birth, let's encourage each other to keep on serving, keep on loving, and keep on caring.

Blessings,

Scott & Tan



Children we've been helping from Eastern Shan State

On the ministry front, we are spending an average of probably 2-3 days per week away from home. We either travel to Chiang Mai (4 trips to Chiang Mai in October) or go over to Myanmar overland straight North or fly to Yangon via Bangkok (2 trips in September). We take numerous short trips nearby - up into the mountains - as well. Our main work is to continue to support and encourage local ethnic minority ministries - particularly ministries with a goal to help people in Eastern Shan State. The number is up to 7 now. In most of these we play an advisory role of some kind. In some cases, particularly with the new, smaller start-ups, we provide some financial support - usually about \$300 per month or less. The large gift of \$15,000 from the Great Rivers Region in 2016 was specifically for ministry rather than for our support, so we have been using that for a lot of our work and project support funds. It's almost all used up. **Please pray for needed provisions for our costs to travel and overnight stays, and if you feel called, consider participating in [#GivingTuesday](#) (and beyond in the coming days) by giving to help meet these needs.**

Some of our specific ministries that need prayer and funding: (about \$3,000-\$4,000 for each one would be tremendously helpful)

1. **Supporting Jirah**, a ministry that seeks to strengthen ethnic minority families through coaching couples, demonstrating kitchen gardening and livestock raising as well as providing a place for young girls to live while going to school in the city of Kengtung.
2. **Supporting the Kengtung Youth Center** for young people to get involved in healthy constructive social activities.
3. **Help defray some of Tan and my costs** to travel to and stay in Kengtung.