



# Taiwan Times

## Byron and Melissa Manners Newsletter

Blog: <http://taiwantimesblog.wordpress.com>

Website: [feaministries.org/missions/manners](http://feaministries.org/missions/manners)

May 2024

Dear Friends,

Sometimes God works in ways that exceed anything we can imagine. The following story is one of those times. On January 21 we had made arrangements to install Bro. and Sis. Lee from Korea as the pastors of our Qi-Jin church. The Lord helped in the service, and we had a good visit with them. A new convert from my own church came that morning and brought a couple friends. Little did I know that his friends lead a large parachurch organization in Thailand. I was focused on the installation service, and they were focused on what they needed to do in Taiwan. His friend Dr. Lu listened to me preach.

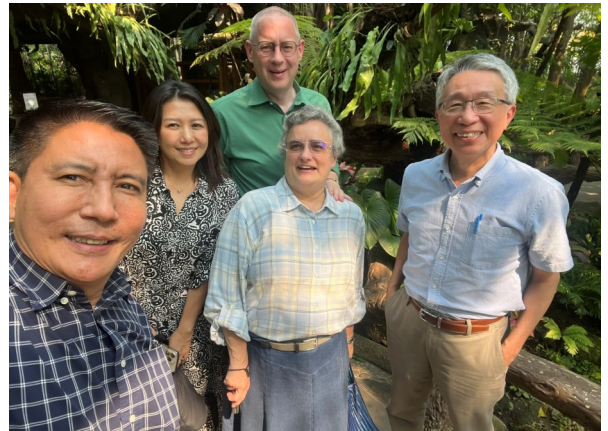


The man in my congregation insisted that we meet. After the service we were introduced, and there was an instant connection. He gave me an invitation to come to Thailand and teach in a church there. At first I did not think I should go, but my HIM leaders urged me to. So we arranged to make the trip in April. I asked Pastor Ho to travel with us. He has had previous experience teaching in areas where the gospel is not welcomed by the government. Pastor Ho informed me that the church where I would be teaching would be evaluating my teaching, while I was assessing if there were ministry opportunities for HIM in Thailand.

When we stepped off the plane in Chiang-Mai, Dr. Lu was waiting and began talking even before we entered the terminal. Instantly there was a special connection between us three pastors. As we visited over the next three days, we all realized God had brought us together. God has opened a huge door for HIM in Thailand, but it is not among the Thai people. Dr. Lu and his wife are members of a small ethnic group in the Asian highlands that is at least 85 percent Christian. They have church buildings and pastors but need help with getting Bibles printed and training their pastors. Dr. Lu has around 1,000 churches he works with among this ethnic group.

Dr. Lu and the man in my church were both born in a country near Thailand that is currently experiencing a devastating civil war. Dr. Lu has access to another 1,000 churches in that country and ministry among the refugees who have fled into Thailand.

Again they have church buildings and pastors but need Bibles and training. Dr. Lu gathered a group of qualified scholars and did a new translation of the Bible into this language but needs funds to get it printed.



I had the privilege of teaching in one of their churches in Chiang-Mai. I was told to teach on basic Christian living, so I used the statement the churches in Taiwan have drawn up about what a Christian lifestyle looks like. I was very careful to back up what I taught with Scripture. The church really liked it and asked to use it. Perhaps other churches in this denomination will use it. They also gave us a couple of small gifts. To the right is the bag they gave Missy.

We took one of the courses from Shepherd's Global Classroom with us and left it with Dr. Lu. We also left a book on holiness written by Dr. Stephen Gibson. I have since been in contact with Dr. Lu, and he would like to have someone travel to Thailand and teach them how to use Shepherd's Global Classroom material. This is an open door to over 2,000 churches to teach from a Wesleyan standpoint and help train pastors.



Before I went to Thailand, I did not realize the neighboring country had many Christians among the main ethnic group. But around 10 percent of this country has become Christian. Great humanitarian needs exist among both these people groups. This open door is so large that no one group is going to be able to meet the need. Pastor Ho has contacts in the US, and he will be meeting with them this summer. I also need to meet with others at HIM and discuss what we can do. We would appreciate your prayers that our time in the States this summer will be profitable. If you or your church would like to hear more, contact me.



Before we flew back to Taiwan, Dr. Lu and his wife presented us with shirts from their ethnic group. We felt like we had been adopted. Being with Dr. Lu was like meeting a modern day apostle. He personally has led 7,600 people to Jesus. His energy and enthusiasm for the kingdom are something to behold. Thailand, like Taiwan, is not fertile ground for gospel seed. But through war and persecution God has brought people to Thailand who are very open to the gospel. I am guessing the door will not be open for long. This is one of the greatest opportunities God has ever opened in Southeast Asia. Please help us pray for God's clear direction and that He will put us in contact with the right people this summer. Also pray we will get some much needed rest.

Sincerely,

Byron and Missy Manners