



Thailand on Lockdown



Over the month of April our province of Chiang Mai (in the northwest corner of Thailand) has had a big upswing of Covid cases. Since vaccines are not available to the general public here, our little corner of the world is starting to experience a lot of anxiety and lockdown measures are in place. This means that we can't gather in groups of 10 or more, so even dinners and house church have been cancelled. Compared to other countries Thailand has had very few cases of Covid until recently, so the third wave of Covid is startling for the people here.

How is dealing with Covid in Thailand different than in America? Three things come to mind.

1) If you get Covid in Thailand then you have to go to a field hospital (aka a detention center for people with Covid). Parents and children are separated during this time. Since no one is legally allowed to recover at home and parents being separated from their children is a horrendous thought, understandably the anxiety about getting Covid is high among nationals here.



2) There is a 20,000 THB (\$640) fine if you leave your house without a mask, so you can't go on a walk or bike ride (even in our high 90s heat) without wearing a mask. We're not allowed to enter any public places without wearing a mask and before entering any buildings (such as grocery stores) we must have our temperature taken. There is no debate or discussion about whether we should wear masks – everyone does it. Period. The End.

3) There's no vaccine for the general public right now. We can't sign our names on a list to get a vaccine soon so there's no debate about: Should we get a vaccine? Which one? Where's it the cheapest? It's just not available right now.



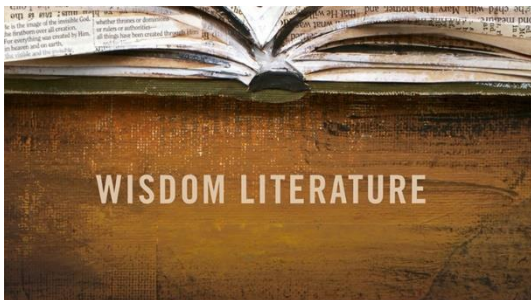
Please pray for us to be salt and light during this time as we offer words of encouragement to our youth group teens who aren't allowed to attend school right now, look for ways to bless our church family even though we aren't currently allowed to meet together as a congregation, encourage friends, and interact with our Thai neighbors. Also, please pray specifically for our kids as they've had their Missionary Kid Camp and some other fun events cancelled. It's hard for them to go through the back-and-forth of "normal" life and "lockdown" life, so pray for perseverance and joyful times even amidst this hard season.

Easter Outreach



Before the upswing of Covid cases this month, we were blessed to be able to lead our youth group teens in throwing an Easter party for the special needs children of Hope Home. Many of these children have severe disabilities and the Thai government facilities are not able to adequately care for the children, so the wonderful Christian staff of Hope Home care for and love these kids full-time. We were able to bring an extra special afternoon to the kids. We decorated sugar cookies, did a craft, and had an Easter egg hunt.

ABTS Classes



This month Greg's Old Testament Biblical Theology course finishes and students will be submitting their final assignments and are in the final stretch! Once this course finishes there will be a two-week break and then Greg starts teaching a course on Wisdom Literature. Most of this month has been spent preparing for this course, which right now is scheduled to have on online element followed by one week of face-to-face class time here in Chiang Mai. Because of the Covid situation in

Chiang Mai right now, the details of how this class will actually work out are up in the air. Please be in prayer as decisions are made soon about whether or not class will be held in person.

Praises and Prayer Requests

Thank you so much for praising God with us and praying for our needs. Please email us with any prayer requests you have so that we can be praying for you as well!

- 1) Please pray for us to be salt and light during this third wave of Covid in Thailand. Please pray for our kids to have perseverance and joy even amidst this hard season.
- 2) Praise God we were able to bless the children of Hope Home with an Easter party before Thailand locked down. Please pray for the children and Christian staff to thrive as they show these children the love of Jesus day-in and day-out.
- 3) Praise God Greg's online Old Testament class is continuing to go well! Please pray for his students to finish the semester strong, as well as for decisions that need to be made about the schedule of his upcoming Wisdom Literature class.

Thank you so much for all of your love and support!

Greg + Rachel

