

To My Beloved BBC family,

Greetings in God's Peace!

It's been three months since I left Philippines and followed God's calling for me to become a missionary here in Thailand. Praise God for being so faithful from the beginning up to this time. Indeed God's timing is so perfect and wherever He leads, surely He will always provide. I can't discuss all the things He had provided in my stay here (materially and spiritually) for those are immeasurable!

However, let me start by sharing to you my blessings here in Grace Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Rolando Gutlay, whom I considered as a great help and blessing in many ways. Some of the churches here in Thailand seldom have Thai members but I Thank the Lord for leading me in this church where majority of its members are Thai Nationals. This allows me to familiarize their culture and learn their language as I communicate with them every day. I have given the opportunity to teach in the English Sunday School Class whose attendees are all foreigners who understand the English Language. I also preach in their evening service every Sunday (at times morning service) which I find so challenging. I went through lots of adjustments at first considering that I have an English interpreter. I find it hard to speak slowly and pronounce every English word as clearer as I can. Not only that, I need to control my emotion during preaching or else, they will not be able to understand it. In addition, I'm also part of the Soul Winning Program in this church every Tuesday and Thursday at 4:00 to 6:00pm. I'm very blessed to be a part of this ministry for this allows me to actually see how hungry these Thai people for the Word of God. My great desire to lead them to Christ ignites every time I meet people who don't know the Lord but have an open heart to receive Him as their Lord and personal Savior. This is the heart of this mission. To lead thousands and thousands of Thai people to Christ, the Beloved Son of God and the Only Source of real joy in the world. By faith, through God's grace and mercy, this will be made possible.

Currently, I am enrolled in a Language School Study where we are taught basic Thai language. This contains 15 modules for 15 months and right now, I'm at the 3rd Module where we are being taught of Thai Alphabet both in reading and writing. The good news is, I am able to communicate and understand basic words in Thai language yet I must admit, I'm at the "struggling stage" now. I have a long way to go but I know God's grace is enough for me to be able to finish it successfully. I believe that Language is the first ministry of every missionary in a foreign land. I pray that this ministry will become effective for this will serve as an instrument to reach out Thai people to Christ, this will allow me to truly minister them in any ways I can through God's wisdom. . Please help me pray that God will give me the courage and strength to overcome the challenges in learning this foreign language.

Let me end this letter by sharing to you my deepest prayers here in Thailand. Right now, I'm praying to plant a Bible- based, Christ Centered and Strong Independent Bible Baptist Church in the Province of Chonburi (part of Central Thailand), which is 2 hours travel away from Bangkok two years from now (with God's approval). I am also praying for many professionals who will surrender their lives to become as working professionals here in Thailand. I can see the great need of the Word of God to be preached in this land. I can see the starvation of the people for Christ. I can see how heavy the task is and the great need for the servants of God whose hearts are willing to submit to Him and work for His glory and honor.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Bible Baptist Church La Carlota City led by Pastor Edgar B. Nono. Thank you all for your prayers and support. These empower and strengthen me every day. Also, I would like to thank Grace Baptist Church here in Thailand for providing my spiritual needs and for taking care of me as I stay here. And to my family for their constant love and prayers, count my prayers for all of you. Above all, to my Almighty God for His Divine Providence and immeasurable blessings! This is NOT only my MIISON. This is OURS. May we become one body in Christ as we continue to serve him wherever we are now. Let the peace of God be upon us all.

Missionary in Thailand,

Jireh John P. Nono