

# Thai Tidbits

Verasak (Kim) & Rebecca Voraritskul  
Khon Kaen, Thailand  
<thaities@loxinfo.co.th>

Overseers: Silver Spring Church of Christ  
100 East Franklin Ave., Silver Spring, MD  
<office@silverspringcofc.org>

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## Four Baptisms



April 3-7 there were four baptisms during the Northeast Bible camp. It was a great joy to see them born again. Two were from the northeast and two from central Thailand. About 350 Christians from forty churches from all

over Thailand and Laos came to the camp.

One of the camp attendants wrote on the Church's Line program, "Today is the last day of the camp at the Kum Hai Church. Thanks to Bro. Verasak, the Church at Kum Hai, and the camp team. This is one of the best camps I have attended. It had much good preaching, fun games and delicious food that seemed professionally done with a variety of three to four different soft drinks. The grand finale was a special last meal of two roasted pigs weighing almost 100 kilogram each (about 220 lbs. each). The camp only charged 100 baht for the camp fee."

## First English Bible School in Thailand

August 1, will be the beginning of the first English Bible school in Thailand. It is time for it now because most of our Christians have improved their education and economic status to the point that most of their children finish high school while they themselves had only 4th grade education. The second and third generation of Christians has been blessed. Also Thailand became one of the AEC – Asean Economic Community. English will be the main language for official communication.

If our future preachers can study in English by themselves after they graduate from the Bible school, we have accomplished our goal. Religious and other fields of education are in English, therefore our preachers will benefit much from learning Bible in English instead of Thai. In the past, most of the mission schools in the USA encouraged the missionaries to learn and speak the native language instead of English so the Thai people will not feel like Christianity is a foreign religion. This kind of reasoning is changing. It is a must for our Thai preachers to read, write, and speak English.

## Church of Christ Coordinate Center in Thailand



The Lord's church has been in Thailand since 1959. We have tried to get recognition from the Department of Religion all

these years. Three times we were refused. The Religious Department told us to join one of the three recognized denominations—Catholic, Presbyterian, or Pentecostal groups. It is impossible for us or them to accept our differences.

Later on the Religious Department accepted two more denominations—Seventh day Adventists and the Baptists. When we applied in the past, we did not do it with all the documents so we could not appeal for recognition. We had only talked to the Religious Department. Now we will do everything by the required documents and correct way, and if we are rejected again then we can and will appeal through the courts to get a fair hearing.

The churches from all over Thailand sent in names from which fifteen board members would be selected. I was selected as one of the fifteen. The board committee drafted the regulations and constitution for the center, after which we sent it to all the churches. We emphasized the autonomy of each church. The coordination center must not interfere with any local church's independence.

## Losing Support

As of you know my wife Rebecca has been ill for the last six years, which prevents me from traveling to America to visit you. We have lost many thousands of dollars in monthly support. Also since the price of oil has been constantly going down, many of our supporters who are in the drilling of oil business had to drop their monthly support.

We are going to have the new English Bible school begin in August. If we plan to grow this project, we sure need your help. Please help us by increasing your support by 10%. This will take us a long way and you will be helping Thailand into the next new era.. Thank you.