

Settling in to Chiang Mai... and oh yes – a visa run,

As we arrived in CM we have enjoyed a couple of strategic conversations with Eric (and Virginia) Spangler who serves as the Asia Area Director.

Here are a couple of brief updates:

1. Our trip to the Light and Life Bible College in Yangon, Myanmar is still on hold. We will look to visit when the corona virus has lessened and when classes are in session. In the meantime, we will bring the LLBC Principal – Solomon – into CM to spend a few days and get our consultation started.
2. We will go to work to schedule our visits prioritizing Vietnam, Cambodia and perhaps Nepal for our first trips. We are internally referring to these trips as “listening tours.” I will go in and spend day 1 with the Superintendent (and family), days 2 and 3 with national leaders (Boards of Administration) and then Day 4 with the superintendent once again to debrief. We are at present crafting a strategic agenda for these conversations that we will follow as a template for each visit. Our underlying purpose is to build relationships with these key leaders and to begin providing personal and strategic mentoring.
3. These visits will be done on a “low profile” as our presence can cause unwanted attention for our leaders, pastors and churches. These are “creative access” countries where pastors and churches do not have the same freedoms that we may take for granted.

We will also be using these next few weeks to begin the search for our apartment here in CM. We will be looking for a 2 bedroom unit so we can host guests from the US as well as bring in national leaders to spend time with us for relationship building and mentoring.

By the way, we have a six month multiple entry visa for Thailand. One of the requirements of this visa is that we have to leave the country every two months. Our first two month “visa deadline” is March 4 (today) and so we are making what is called a “visa run” for 48 hours into Hong Kong. We chose HK because it allows us a brief visit with our son and family.

Our most sincere thanks to one and all for your loving and prayerful support.

A friend,

Roger and Ellen