



The Gaudet Family

For Souls Still Waiting...

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"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." Psalm 68:11

**Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
from the Gaudets
and co-workers**



BURMA

As most of you know we have been involved with the people and languages of Burma since arriving in the region. A large part of the work here has been publishing and distributing that which has been printed for this region. We have co-workers here in our ministry from Burma as well as contact with a good number of brethren living inside. You may have seen news of events unfolding in the country recently. What follows is a birds-eye view of these events and the implications.

On 7 November, 2010, elections were held in Burma. For the first time a civilian (former military however) was installed as president. Almost everyone looked at the elections with great suspicion. Within days, November 13th, pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest where she had spent most of her 15 years in detention. Since then she has been allowed to interact with political parties to civic groups.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made a historic trip to Burma within the

last couple of weeks. She met with Aung San Suu Kyi as well as several ethnic minority leaders and the newly elected president and officials.

As a result of stiff protests by the ethnic people who live in the path of the proposed *Myitsone Dam* project on the *Irrawaddy River*, the government halted the \$3.5 billion hydroelectric project. This represented a first in memory for the people of the country. That is, the first time that the government put the wishes of the people ahead of its goals.

Censorship has loosened up with websites now opened that previously were blocked as well as journals and newspapers which in part no longer have the stringent rules upon them.

A number of political prisoners have been released, however many more remain behind bars. Freedom of religion has been announced by the government, stirring the hearts of many believers. Several brethren have reported a real openness for the Gospel among the people.

What all this means no one exactly knows yet. However, many of you have prayed for the people of Burma as well as have given to see the Gospel go forth in that needy land. Many tons of Gospels, New Testaments, Bibles and other helpful Christian literature have been translated, published, printed and distributed over the past few years. Somehow we have been in the middle of it all and we give God the Glory for His leading and provision.



For the first time everyone has a Bible!
(Church in Burma)

No one is ready to say that these changes reflect an irrevocable turn towards freedom yet, but one thing that it has created in the eyes of the citizens of Burma – **Hope!** Continue to pray for the

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Gospel to go forth freely in that needy land. Pray for boldness for the believers as they reach out to the lost around them.

For more info: www.irrawaddy.org

PRAYER & NEWSLETTERS

We are able to get 3-4 of these printed *Prayer&Newsletters* sent in the course of each year. In between each one we send a large number of e-mailed updates called *Gaudet Family Updates*. It may not be the best way of handling correspondence but it seems to work for us. To subscribe to these e-mailed updates, you may go to our web site www.gaudetfamily.org and click on Sign up for our E-mail Newsletter to be automatically subscribed. Or you may send me an e-mail requesting subscription.

Thank you for your intercession, support, and concern for the Gaudet Family and the work He has entrusted to us. We would not want to attempt ministry in this manner without you. Please keep on!

VIDEO News

Over the years we have worked sporadically producing videos which have mostly been aimed at communicating "Missions" to our stateside churches. Several short-term volunteers have been exposed to video production and trained in one or another aspect of it. Many people do not understand how much goes into producing videos but it is intensive and requires training and dedication.

Over the years, we have invested quite a bit into equipment - cameras, computer systems, audio, etc.. Some of these things have to be constantly updated to keep up. Some of our current equipment is outdated, or simply no longer working. This

has prompted us to sit back and take a serious and critical look at the effort. Both of us have a heartfelt desire to continue to use this effective means of communication, and in the process broadening the effort and increasing the quality. We have prayed about it many times and seem always to come back to this decision – we must move forward, we can't get away from it! It is a matter of heavy burden to us.

In a recent e-mail, we asked for input from some who had used the videos in their churches. We had heard feedback in the past that energized us to continue, but some of the responses to that e-mail have really stirred us. We do not make decisions by popular opinion, but at the same time, wanted to hear what folks had to say. This has helped us to make the decision to forge ahead with video in spite of the investment.

We are currently working on an evangelistic video which uses existing artwork. This should be useful in many countries and languages. However, a real opportunity exists to produce a superb quality evangelistic video for use with Thai Buddhists. Several other projects sit on the back burner also, waiting to be started.

We are going forward with this in two areas:

Equipment: We are ordering some full-on professional video equipment before a price increase of nearly 35% at the end of the year. It is a real step of faith for us as there are so many other areas of financial need for the work. This equipment is very different than that which we have been using. The cost is significant but nothing is too hard for the Lord.

Personnel: With this expanded effort in video, we are bringing before the Lord the need of co-workers who are dedicated to the task. This includes volunteer co-workers from the USA as well as local co-workers who can be trained.

We covet your prayers for this as we expand it. We want to make a difference with video as we continue to go forward producing the printed Word.

THE FLOOD

Thailand just underwent the worst flooding in 50 years. Many of you saw it on the news internationally. The widespread

flooding has caused untold damage, interrupting the lives of people and closing factories and places of business. Some residents have lived with flooding for over 2 months.

This disaster is going to effect the livelihood of people and businesses for many more months. Because so many of the factories were ruined there are shortages of basic things, like insect repellent, paper items, laundry detergent, and many things that you don't fully appreciate until you can not get them. Our stores in Chiang Mai are having a hard time keeping the shelves stocked because the highway between here and the area north of Bangkok where many of the factories were located, was under water and impassable for awhile. Please pray for these people, that God will use this time of trouble in their lives to cause them to listen to the claims of Christ on their lives.

FROM KRINNY

December is a wonderful month in Thailand, because it is winter here too. Winter...when the temperatures go down into the 70's. I know that this does not sound like winter to people living in the USA, but believe me compared to the 100+ degrees and almost 100% humidity of the rest of the year, this is wonderful.

Everybody here, well, *almost* everybody is looking forward to a 2 week break. Tom, the workaholic is grumbling like the cartoon character *Taz*. You know the one. The *Tasmanian Devil* that twirls and spins around at warp speed while muttering unintelligible words under his breath. Tom is not happy unless he is working like *Taz* and accomplishing things. I am NOT like Tom or *Taz*. They say opposites attract and we must have been a match made in magnet heaven. I am looking forward to Christmas break

with reckless abandon. Pook, Carolyn and I are already getting all our cooking ingredients ready. We already have most of our Christmas plans laid out.



Floods not so bad where we live.



The Bangkok street where we used to live. The Jeff Lange Family were flooded.

I am one of the fortunate people who can lay work aside when the day is done and not pick it up again until the next work day. I don't bring my work home with me. I learned this skill many years ago, when I worked 40 straight 10 hour days without one day off, and that included Sundays. No, this was not secular work...we were in the ministry! I sat in my living room one evening, exhausted, and realized that I had not read a book (other than the Bible), for 4 years. It was a turning point in my life when I said, "No more. Not like this." Full time Christian workers, missionaries, pastors, etc., often experience burnout because they are not being led of the Lord, they are charging ahead of Him at breakneck speed. This is just as bad as dragging behind Him and doing nothing. Both are exhausting and God asks for neither one of them. I have found that if I just simply follow at His pace, I will have plenty of time for everything. I will have the strength that I need for every task and things will get done in just the right time.

So, in light of the above paragraph, I am looking forward to a relaxing time of reading a few good books, swimming (mandatory per doctors orders), doing some outside stuff while it is cool enough to breathe without having heat stroke, and whatever other brain-dead stuff I can come up with. Oh, and don't worry about Tom/*Taz*. Since there won't be anybody in the office that he can get to help him do any work, he will eventually spin to a slow halt. But he will still mumble about the lack of work getting done. But there won't be anybody listening to him; The rest of us will be busily resting and recuperating. Workaholism is bad. He needs an intervention.

Merry Christmas from the Office Slacker,
AKA, *Krinny*

Tom and Karin (Krinny) Gaudet

Missionaries since 1979

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