



For God (the Father) so loved ... that he gave his only son December 2011 Volume 2 Number 11

John 3:16

Happy Father's Day!

Yes, we know what you are thinking. Rod and Anne have completely lost track of time and are out of touch with reality. However, nothing could be further from the truth. You see in Thailand, the most important person is King Bhumibol and his birthday is on **5 December**. Because of this and because he is regarded as the "Father" of the Thai nation, Father's Day is celebrated on his birthday.

At the Language Learning Centre we try and focus on cultural events as well as learning the Thai Language. This year we celebrated Father's Day with several of the students talking about fathers or what it means to be a father. The teacher who organized the event introduced the topic of how Father's day is celebrated in honour of the king and mentioned some of the cultural significance of the day.

Then she said that this was the first time in her 14 years as a teacher that she had organized this event. The reason was that for her Father's day is simply too painful to remember or participate in. Of course she now had everyone's attention and we wondered what was coming next.

Khruu Awd ("teacher" Awd) told us her personal testimony and her life for the past 15 years. 15 years ago she was not a Christian but was tutoring some Christian missionaries. As a result of this she turned her life over to Jesus and almost immediately things took a turn for the worse. Her husband of one year wanted nothing to do with Christianity and definitely did not want his wife to be a practicing Christian. In fact there was one time when he actually threatened her with a knife and at that point she did not know if she would live to see the light of another day.

They had two children, a girl and a boy and Awd decided early on that she should take the children to church and let

them learn about Jesus. This only made the situation with her husband worse.

At some point he basically decided to stop being a father and refused to participate in any way in the children's upbringing. When their son encountered bullying at school it was Awd who was left to sort it out with the school and then try and teach her son how to fight back when the bullies attacked. When her son wanted to learn how to ride a motorcycle it was Awd who had to teach him.

Recently her son's teacher told the students to write something for father's day. Awd's son asked if he could write about his grandfather instead. Things are so bad in the family that the children ask when their father will die.

There was a lot more and most of us listening were in tears. The pain and emotional scars that exist in this family were almost too much to hear. The problem is that Awd's story is not unique to Thailand. It may be worse here, but we doubt it.

In families around the world today the person most at risk is the father and we believe that this is being exploited to the maximum by the enemy of our souls. Most mothers have at least an inkling of the need to nurture children. This is something men have to learn. In scripture wives are never told to love their husbands but husbands are commanded to love their wives. Mothers are never told to care for their children but Fathers are commanded to not make them angry and to bring them up with wisdom.

As Christmas approaches let us remember the Father who loved us so much that he was willing to give his only beloved son to die for us so that we could be brought into a loving relationship with Him.

Prayer Needs:

- Pray for "Khruu" Awd as a Christian mother and pray for the salvation of her husband.
- Pray for families in your neighborhood this Christmas who may not have heard the story about the love of God the Father. Then go and tell them!
- Pray for fathers to be men who are able to bring up their children with wisdom.

Praise for :

- Continuing to pass our language checks
- Opportunities for special Christmas outreach in the Lopburi area
- Clarity on our future service with OMF
- Being able to spend time with our 2nd son

in December

Personal contact information

Email—miller.rod.anne@gmail.com

Or

PO Box 58 Lopburi 15000 Thailand

Prayer and Praise

OMF INTERNATIONAL CANADA

21-5155 Spectrum Way
Mississauga, ON, L4W 5A1,
CANADA

1-888-657-8010

omfcanada@omf.ca

www.omf.ca