



“Who gave man his mouth? ... Now go; I will help you
speak and teach you what to say” Ex 4:11,12

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Language Learning Month #1—The “Fire Hose” - Frustrating or Fascinating

For all you Thai speakers on our prayer list this will come as no surprise but for all you non-Thai speakers did you know that when you say the Thai word that sounds like the English word “*my*”, it is pronounced with 5 different tones (mid, low, falling, high, rising) and it will have 5 different meanings?

1. microphone, 2. new (or again), 3. no / not or burn, 4. (to form a question—a verbal question mark) and 5. silk

It depends where it is in the sentence but you still have to pronounce it correctly otherwise you might end up with a microphone when you wanted to buy silk.

Language learning is fun but if I use an analogy from my previous work experience it is a little like trying to drink from a fire hose. Too much volume too much pressure and too little time to get it all in. and yes, it can be frustratingly messy!

Recently I (Rod) was experiencing some real frustration with the process and the resulting loss of control of simple things in life. Not that I like to control things (much!) but I was really feeling the pressure and the loss of being able to do simple things.

I shared this with a good friend and she said that recently she had participated in a seminar that spoke about frustration and how to surrender it to God. Her advice was to turn the frustration into fascination.

“Seeing things through the lens of fascination opens up opportunities and has been providing me with a whole new perspective in that very instant moment. Life in the challenging, and what could be frustrating times has become lighter and has had more options.”

Turn the
frustration into
fascination ...

Great advice, and it showed me my need for the body of Christ and how we can support and encourage one another in tough times.

We know we will continue to experience frustration as we struggle on with learning the Thai language. In the long run however the benefits will outweigh the difficulties.

Praise and Prayer

Praise for :

- The beginnings of a new vocabulary in another language!
- A quick adjustment to our new home in Lopburi (this was a request last month!)
- An opportunity to witness at the local university
- Some cooler weather this month (less than 20°C)

Prayer Needs:

- Our continuing adjustment to becoming full-time students and “older” language learners
- Seizing opportunities to communicate even with the limited language skills we have
- Learning the new culture as well as the language (more about that next month)
- Our children and families in Canada

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