



The kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field.

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Matthew 13:44

The kingdom of Heaven—some Asian variants

Considering the time of year in the northern hemisphere this issue is for all you gardeners and aspiring gardeners.

“*The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field.*” In Asia two treasures that get hidden in the fields are rice and garlic. Both Rice and Garlic can symbolize the kingdom of Heaven because of their ability to start small but multiply to great quantities when harvested.

Planting field rice actually does not start in the field but in a small seed bed where all the seedlings are nurtured. At the appropriate time the farmer takes the seedlings and plants them in the rice paddies where they can grow to maturity and produce a crop of 30 60 and even 100 fold.

Planting garlic is a little different. The farmer prepares the location to plant the single clove of garlic and then waits for the harvest. That single clove when it is dug up will have produced many more cloves as part of a multiplication process. Garlic is a particularly appropriate analogy for church multiplication and but also because of its unique fragrance. The church of Jesus Christ is either the stench of death to those who are not part of it or it is the fragrance of life to those who are. What is your nose telling you?

God's Kingdom is on the move here in Asia. Rev 5:9-10 says that with the blood of Jesus Christ people have been purchased for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. He has made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth. Check it out for yourself!

Two weeks in Chiang Mai

We have been blessed to spend the last week of May and the first week of June at the Mekong Centre in Chiang Mai. OMF Mekong is having its annual conference / reunion and we are meeting a large number of people who we will eventually be supporting from the Mekong Centre.

Praise and Prayer

Praise for :

- Anne passing her module 2 check in our language study (seven more to go—this level!)
- Rod will do his module 2 check on 16 June
- Rod acquiring his Thai driver's license (car and motorcycle)
- Spiritual renewal for both of us spending time

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with friends in
Chiang Mai

Prayer Needs:

- Please continue to pray for the hearing in Rod's right ear
- Also continue to pray for our neighbors and for wisdom to know how to share the gospel with them.
- For us to spend more time “talking in the market” using what little language we have and a bit less time just memorizing vocabulary

Missions Believe It or Not

If we were to ask you what a stereotypical “missionary” looked like what would you say? Male, aged forty to sixty and of course don't forget the pith helmet?

Well believe it or not, you would be dead wrong. The missionary “workforce” of today is two thirds women and of that group one half are single. Some of the most enterprising and on-fire people we know working here are in fact the women.

Sort of begs the question however, “where are the men?”

Over to you, guys.

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