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From our Jawk Taing Brethren via Viber: “HAPPY SABBATH. This picture we take after worship”.

18 December 2017

Dear Brethren and Fellow Laborers,

On the 1st of December, JumSengPan, our Pastor’s wife from JawkTiang, wrote to me and said that they buried PweSay. Here is her message: “Hello Aj (*teacher /Ajaan in Thai*) Gloria, Yes we will be straight and narrow way. Sometimes we don't know what's God ways. I believe this life will be trial and next life is NO suffering and live forever. In this life we don't know when we die, but we need to be good example for the next generation. PweSay was good example for her children even she cannot talk. The people said to heal with pagan, she shake her head to say no. She was in faith until she died. Today the PweSay body will bury. Our students don't go to school today. I have responsibility for the children to teach God's ways with love. We keep praying for you and Aj Leon. Every trial God will answer. I pray for you to have strength for everything. I know you are so tired. We love you and Aj Leon like parents. With much love, Jum”

Please keep praying for our brethren in JawkTaing. At the end of December they will visit our very small group in NaMawn, Kachinland. There is again ongoing fighting in various parts of Kachinland.

Please pray for their safe travels and guidance. MoPalel, the assistant pastor will take care of matters while Seng Aung and family are away. I will write to you about their visit next time.

Update On Leon



Leon finally going home after 3 weeks in the hospital. L to R: Ganya, Leon, Norah, Jib, and Brennen.

On early Friday afternoon, the 8th of December, Leon came home—and already over a week has gone by. Leon is progressing daily. Leon’s speech therapist calls Leon’s difficulty anomic and motor aphasia.¹ His words are becoming slowly clearer and his memory is making progress. Please continue to pray for this difficulty that is so very frustrating to Leon and all of us who communicate with him. He asks about his siblings—Denny, Yvonne, and Anita. He asks about friends from the past. He asked about

the King. Today, at home, he saw a picture from years ago when HM Queen Sirikit gave her first special peacock (she called her “dukadah” [doll] to Mr. Armstrong on her visit to Pasadena, California. We discussed the philosophy of give versus get, which they both had in common. Daily he asks for his grandchildren and I must always explain that they are doing their school work online (they are homeschooled). He waits for them to come all day long.

This morning Leon did his arm and leg exercises with weights and he walked for 17 minutes with only 2 minutes of sitting. After the walk we daily sit outside and I read to him from the Bible. We also do speech and occupational therapy. We went to a professional for the first time last week. Then we work on those items all week long. Tongue exercises, and items brought to Leon’s attention in hopes of him being able to name it and remember it the next time or over time. His words are most clear during his prayers for our meals—it’s just amazing!

The therapist asked him, among other things, to count from 1-10. He responded in Thai from 1-13. Then he did it in English and in German. I was totally surprised. Under normal circumstances, he gives mathematical equations to Norah and Ganya (two of our grandkids). But today he was trying hard to give me an equation. We play music for Leon. He sang the entire ABC song and hums to tunes that he recognizes, such as “Ode to Joy”...

We count our many blessings even in trials. God and Jesus walk beside and with us. Without God and His Son, we have nothing!!! Thanks be to our Father for our calling and choosing—that is giving us understanding by and through the Holy Spirit. It is the most precious thing—nothing else matters.

Thank you again, our dear brothers and sisters, for all your prayers and encouraging messages. Please keep praying not only for us, but for all those that are suffering in various and numerous ways. But we

¹ <https://www.aphasia.org/aphasia-definitions/>

shall be changed and be with Jesus when He plants His feet on the Mount of Olives and we shall be as He is. Till then we share our trials and our miracles of rejoicing until our Hope is fulfilled!

Our friend Kim from Tulsa just sent this to Leon and me: "...always remember God is merciful and loving beyond measure and that He holds Leon (and you!!) in the palm of His mighty and capable hand! I was reading Isaiah 40:28-31 this morning, and it is a wonderful reminder that "...those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint"...so appropriate for Leon's situation right now! Our youth pray for him weekly!"

Again Leon and I, and all of our family thank you so much for your continued prayers, and your continued donations which keep things going while Leon is rehabilitating.

We all hold fast together!

In Christian love,

Gloria and Leon