

Paul and Sarah Brown

Prayer letter, April 2017

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Dear Friends

We always feel like we are saying Happy New Year, but living in a country that actively celebrates 3 New Year's per year it's hard not to get involved. So again... Happy New Year 2560!

13th – 15th April is when Thai New Year is celebrated, it is called Songkran - Water Festival. When the temperature hits 40 degrees Celsius and above, it is the perfect time for Thailand's Songkran Water Festival, to cool down! The festival starts off on a serious note, by honouring the elders, pouring fragrant water & flowers in their hands...and then... It's time for the largest water fight across the whole of Thailand for 3 days!

There are 543 years' difference between the Buddhist calendar and the Gregorian calendar. With Songkran being the start of the New Year. So, 2017 in Thailand the year is 2560!

In January, we warmly welcomed new BMS worker Ashleigh Gibb to Bangkok. After some months of language study, she will be joining the NighLight team, specifically to work in the coffee shop and outreach.

Grace

The NightLight Annual retreat took place in Ratchaburi. With a total of 95 people, with 14 nationalities represented across women, children, staff and volunteers. It was a great time for everyone to be together in worship, be encouraged, renewed in God's word, on our continued theme of 'Breakthrough & Step into Victory'.

God is continually at work and the 'Breakthrough's & 'Steps into Victory', keep coming. At the retreat, we witnessed another 7 women get baptised! The candidates consisted of Thais, and one woman from our International anti-trafficking programme from the Ukraine.

7 beautiful women, stood in the early morning sunlight looking nervous, but joyful. We all congregated around the resort swimming pool, to rejoice with the angels.

One of the candidates called Grace*, stood in the pool her palms clasped together; after she confessed her belief in Christ, her commitment to follow Christ. She then let out a loud cry of joy, that came from deep within, that echoed around the resort. Even one of the hotel Thai staff could no longer hold back the tears!

Her loud cry of joy held so much – it was her release from time held bound by idols and idol worship, the release from time held in bondage working in the sex industry just to make enough money to make ends meet, the release from the feelings of worthless with no purpose and the release from feeling ashamed.



All 92 NightLight staff, volunteers and children



A special moment of joy and a hug of encouragement after Sky's* baptism



All 7 baptism candidates, after their baptism

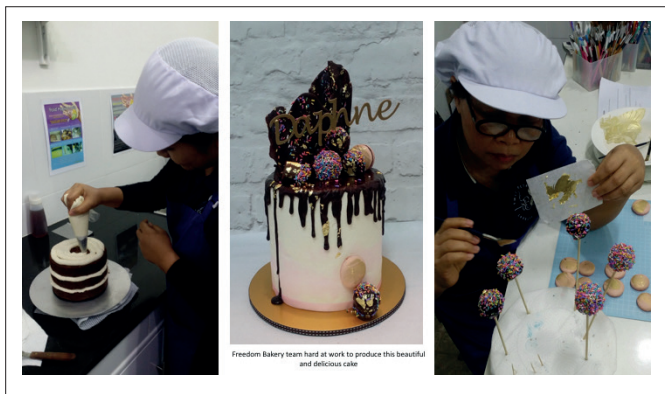
Baptism

Her loud cry of joy – was her stepping into God’s freedom and truth, it was God’s grace, mercy and transformation in her life, it was God restoring her worth, purpose, identity, dignity and taking away her shame and most of all her allowing God to be master and ruler over her life.

Like God has done many times over, He has handed these 7 beautiful women, the gift of grace. God has taken all their good and bad – the sad and glad and woven it into a ‘Tapestry of Grace & Praise’.

Freedom Bakery

The freedom bakery has seen a steady flow of orders. Under the guidance of the new bakery teacher Panita that we employed in September 2016. She has been teaching the women Patisserie & Pastry skills, adding to the many skills they have learned already.



Freedom Bakery - work 2017 order

We are seeing the women’s skills and abilities climb to a new level and as teachers we are having to assist much less. They are even now telling us how to do many of the techniques! Which is a great testimony to how God is working in the bakery.

Please Pray:

- For the 7 women that have recently been baptised, that we will be able to encourage and support them as they grow in their faith.
- For Faa* from the bakery, she is currently undergoing medical treatment and will be away from the bakery for up to 2 months.
- For Gomer* a Thai lady that NightLight has been trying to help for the last 10 years. Her health has improved but unfortunately, she has returned to work on the street.
- For Mia* a Thai lady, Sarah and Paul have been supporting through a very delicate issue. For wisdom, how best to care for her.

Thank God

- For the NightLight retreat, the fellowship time and renewal in God’s word.
- For the progress being made in the Freedom Bakery.

**Names have been changed to protect their identity.*

God Bless

Paul and Sarah

If you would like to support Paul and Sarah by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



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