

Sent by The Odenton  
Baptist Church  
8410 Piney Orchard Pkwy.  
Odenton, MD 21113  
George Shafer, Pastor

# Mike and Panan Leemon

## Missionaries to Thailand

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Needs you can  
pray for:

- Please pray about the need for leadership; deacons, and a pastor...
- We need a larger place with more than our current number of parking spaces (2).
- Discipleship of many new and old believers.

**"Ye also helping  
together by pray-  
er for us . . ."**

Inside this  
issue:

Progress in a  
church plant... 1

A soul saved... 1

Our next furlough 2  
(and more pic-  
tures and praises)



From left: Panan, Tom, Dave,  
Josh, John, and Mike

## "Forsaking the Assembling"

We are "church planting missionaries." Church planting means our goal is NOT to just report numbers to you, seeing souls saved by *addition*, but that we want to do it the New Testament way, through church planting, seeing souls saved by *multiplication*. For that to happen, we need our people to *come to church*.

If all of "our people" came the same day to the same service, I am pretty sure our building could not handle the large number of

people.... BUT, our problem is that our people tend to "forsake the assembling" of themselves together. For the sake of your praying for us about this matter, I will share my opinion as to why this is.

One, we don't live in a country that has church culture. That is, it is not

nor has ever been the habit of Thai people to "go to church," as it is or at least had been in America. So the result is that many Thai Christians view church assembly as something you do if you are free, can do at your convenience, or you go when you have trouble in your life.

Two, many of our people are just plain spiritually immature. (Please continue reading on the back...)

*We had a great baptismal service last month with 5 more people receiving believer's baptism.*



## "Good News From a Far Country"

We do have some good news to share in this prayer letter. We had a woman start coming to our church earlier in the year. She was already a Christian and had asked for prayer for her husband who had never even been in church before.

*Mr. Prahyoon (below-left in the orange shirt), husband of Mrs. Ching (right), came forward to make a public profession.*

We had visited them a couple of times where they work at the market and enjoyed getting to know him. A while later he

came to church for the first time and then started coming regularly. Last month, he left church and told someone he was ready to be



saved. That week he called and asked if he could stop by the church so

he could pray and receive Christ! He has since made a public profession but has been hit and miss on church attendance. Please pray for his baptism and spiritual growth to full maturity in Christ!





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***"But as it is written, To whom he was  
not spoken of, they shall see: and they  
that have not heard shall understand."***  
**Romans 15:21**

**Praise**

Praise the Lord for the love and care  
of our great supporting churches.

We would like to give a special  
"Thank You" to several churches  
that sent special love offerings this  
Christmas. The offerings allowed  
us to do some special things for our  
church here, including giving our  
Thai workers some extra help and  
purchasing a digital piano; the first  
actual piano for this church. Panan  
has been teaching basic piano to sev-  
eral young people and adults with the  
hopes that God might use them to  
minister musically in the future.  
Each of them had their first oppor-  
tunity to play for the offerings during  
the month of December. Please pray  
for us here that God would raise up  
some of our people to minister with  
music.

The offerings also helped provide a

special opportunity for me to meet  
our son David in Japan for 5 days  
and also bring our son Joshua  
along for a fun "senior year" trip  
out of Thailand.

Thank you for your care for us.  
We trust our God will supply for  
all your  
needs  
according  
to His  
riches in  
Christ  
Jesus.

*(Right)  
Praise the  
Lord for a  
new digi-  
tal piano  
for the  
church!*



**"Forsaking the  
Assembling" (continued)**

We just had our 6th baptismal  
service in November. That  
brings the total to about 40  
people who have been saved  
AND baptized (naturally  
we've had many more profes-  
sions than that). Only a num-  
ber of those come faithfully,  
and less than that actually  
serve. I guess those percent-  
ages probably aren't much bet-  
ter than the States, but it sure  
isn't a good formula for a solid  
church plant. We have a very  
large number of people who  
still need to become actual dis-



ciples of Christ. Please pray  
with us to this end, that the  
Christians we have would grow  
to spiritual maturity and bear  
fruit; that God would give us  
wisdom to teach and lead them  
in this way; and that many more  
would come to know Jesus  
Christ as their own savior this  
coming year.



*Miss Oi receives baptism in our 6th baptis-  
mal service (left), And Sunday morning  
church service (above).*

**I Trust to See You in  
My Journey**

We are scheduling our third fur-  
lough right now. We will be back  
3 months from mid-April to mid-  
July this summer and again next  
summer. Much of the first month  
of this coming furlough will be  
spent running between two gradu-  
ations; our son Joshua graduating  
from high school, and our son  
David graduation from the U.S.  
Coast Guard Academy. We still  
have some Wednesdays and Sun-  
day's open in May and June if  
you would like us to come and  
report back to you in person. It  
would be helpful if you could e-  
mail your desire. Because of the  
time difference, phoning from  
Thailand can be inconvenient  
both for you there and us here.  
Thank you in advance for the op-  
portunity to come visit again.  
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