

BTBAB News

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Blessed To Be A Blessing (BTBAB)

Thailand Update

by Jenny McCurry

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Regather & Release

Our 5yrs strategy 2017-22

- Develop a base staff
- Bring discipleship back to the forefront of our work ✓
- More mission leaders
- Purchase a vehicle for BTBAB ✓
- Form an international board of Trustees
- Secure BTBAB a Property

A team of 6 people from the UK recently went on a trip to Thailand which was the first time that BTBAB have been to this nation. We give thanks to God for His goodness, faithfulness and journey mercies for our trip as we had no delays, no injuries, no hospital visits, and no embassy visits! Even when a metal water bottle fell from our transport when travelling at about 60 mph it rolled to the side of the road, avoiding hitting any person, car or motorbike following behind – God is good!

We spent the first evening at the YWAM base in Bangkok followed by an orientation meeting on Saturday, where we met our translator Ning who would be with us for the duration of the trip. What a blessing it was to have her on our team. We then transferred to a local church in the Samut Prakan province, led by Pastors Pietoon and Rachel, where we stayed for the next 10 days.

We ministered at the Sunday morning meetings with song, testimony and a sermon. Following a quick lunch provided by the ladies of the church, we were transported to a new church plant only 12 months old, based in the Suriburi province. The new church had about 25 members, some mature believers and the rest were new. The land had been donated by a relative and they had built a new church, purpose built building for hosting teams, and work was in progress to build a dormitory, coffee shop to provide a place for retreats, seminars, conferences with a wider focus to serve the local area and Bangkok churches.

The first Sunday was a thanksgiving service with other churches joining the meeting, where despite us not understanding a single word, the presence of the Holy Spirit was very evident and we felt very blessed. Afterwards there was a

barbecue with an open mike session on an outdoor stage, where we sang a couple of songs and shared a testimony.

During the week, we had the privilege of visiting some of the church members, praying with them and blessing the ladies with a small gift bag. We also held children's events at a couple of primary schools and at the church, where we played games with the children, shared a testimony and handed out gospel booklets, teaching them that they are very precious and made in the image of God.



We also used donations of £400 to buy food to be distributed to needy families, including an 80 year old lady, who had no relatives to take care of her, dependant on neighbour's good will.

During the week, we had been praying for revelation regarding the group project to find a

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Prayer & Praise weekend

by Yvonne Twum-Barima

It was an intimate group of eight adults (BTBAB partners and supporters of the Oni's as a missionary family) and 3 children who meet at the House of the Open doors in Childswickham.

We had intimate moments of prayer and revelation following times of prayer at the House of the Open doors and from our prayer walk around Childswickham. God showed us how rich and fertile this area was and his plans to work something new including the breaking down of strongholds in the area. We also had confirmation from our time with the Lord that we need to separate the operating facility for BTBAB (for missions training) from the residential facility (for discipleship and accommodation for the Oni family).

Despite the cold temperatures, Papa blessed us with his presence and beautiful sunshine over the week-end, ending with Lorraine playing the piano at the Sunday service.

Thailand Update

(continued from page 1)

ministry which was connected to and provided 'Rescue Care packages' to people coming out of trafficking and it became clear that our current location was not providing any leads. So on Monday following a time of concentrated prayer and fasting to seek God's direction, we felt that we should go to Pattaya and visit the Tamar Center – a ministry located about 3 hours journey away that offered hope, healing and a new life to the bar girls. Despite having limited time to find the recipient, we identified a new project being set up - a lady who was one of the first fruits of the work and was now stepping out on her own to set up a hair salon and a safe house called True Love; which would offer a safe refuge for new girls arriving in Pattaya looking for work at the bars, to try to persuade them not to go into the trade. And we were also able to support the existing work of the Tamar Center. God sent us just as they had finished a prayer meeting asking for Gods provision! God is good!

General Ministry & Mission Update

by Esther Price

Mission Trips 2018

We have two mission trips planned for 2018. Shirley Cooper will be leading a team to India from 16th - 30th June and Sue Arrowsmith will be leading a team to the Philippines from 21st July—4th August. For more details contact Sue at healthinessltd@hotmail.co.uk and Shirley at aci@btbab.org. The first training weekend for both trips is on 2nd – 4th March.

Prayer & Praise

Following on from the success of the last Prayer & Praise weekend, we will be holding another weekend on 23rd – 25th March. To register your interest please email Chantal on toolbox@btbab.org

Disciplers Course

This course equips you with tools to help disciple fellow Christians. If you have never attended this course and would like more information, please go to www.disciplersworkshop.com. The next courses are on 18th – 21st January and 7th – 10th June.

Next Prayer Day

The next prayer days are on 27th December and 10th January. If you have any prophetic words, please pass them onto Yvonne at prayer@btbab.org.

BTBAB Annual Retreat 2018

Next year's retreat will be held at the new BTBAB house in Worcestershire from 24th – 26th August. We will be sharing the updates from 2017-2018 along with times of worship, prayer and multi-media presentations. The cost will be £130 per person and it will be held at Aldaniti Cottage, Mount Pleasant Farm, Hinton Road, Childswickham, Broadway, Worcs, WR12 7HZ. For more information or to book your place, please email Esther at info@btbab.org or call her on 07717 694489.



Photos of Mount Pleasant Farm, where the new BTBAB base is located

Redeeming the Land – Moving Forward

by Tom Griffin

The mission of RTL is to develop a Christian-based sustainable agricultural community in Muguba in the province of Gitega, in Burundi, Africa.

Politically, the country is reasonably stable considering the turmoil the country has been in the past two years. Economically, it would take nothing short of a miracle to reverse the situation but we continue to trust God for his Kingdom to be advanced in this small nation at the heart of the continent of Africa.

In Mubuga, the farmers were working flat out during the summer and early autumn months to prepare the land for the planting season, which is typically in September. All this is of course dependent on rain. However, September came and went and so did October without any rainfall. When it finally did fall in November all got together to plant their first crop of Maize in the seed-hungry soil. Praise God for the first seedlings to be buried in the soil and for all the groundwork which was needed for that significant moment. The crop will be harvested in February 2018, along with the beans and peanuts which were planted at the end of the summer. In the interim, lots of work has to continue, mainly weeding and fertilizing the land with both natural and chemical manure. It is no wonder that Jesus made so many references to farming in the gospels to depict the ways of God and the Christian walk. The process of weeding sometimes calls for such precision and care to ensure that the seeds planted can grow strong and sturdy. Without it the foreign bodies, though may appear like the real plant, can have a weakening effect on the harvest. The next planting season will be in February so the farmers will soon repeat the cycle of land preparation and tilling the ground.

Peniel reports that the spirit among this community is strong and positive and they are greatly encouraged by the project, So let us pray that God will bring a bountiful harvest and reward the work of their hands. Very often I think of the book and wonderful film “Faith like Potatoes” where a Christian missionary saw God’s hand move in miraculous ways to bring rainfall at the nick of time to a poverty stricken community in South Africa and produce a gigantic harvest of huge potatoes. All this happened because one man dared to believe in the goodness of El Shaddai, our bountiful supplier, and as a result a community was transformed.



The purpose of Overseas Community Transformation (OCT) projects is to bring transformation to a community on many fronts. This means not just physically and economically, which agriculture majors on, but also spiritually, socially and educationally. On a weekly basis the community receives practical instruction on farming from the local agricultural advisor and they are learning sustainable ways to grow crops. The spiritual foundation is an essential part of the ethos of OCT and each day begins with prayer and words of encouragement from Peniel, the project co-ordinator. In addition, in November, Innocent, the leader of the Christian Life Ministries (CLM) in Gitega spoke to the Farming Association along with Stephen McGoldrick from New Generation, Bujumbura. This event was particularly significant. Emphasis was placed on the value of God’s word after their first major planting season. Members were keen to listen including children from the community. Eleven people gave their lives to Christ that day. Peniel wrote, “God is doing amazing work for the community of Muguba, Gitega, and hopes this work has to reach the whole community of Burundi”.

Please pray for the continued blessing and provision of the Lord for this community.



Ana Claudia Initiative (ACI) Update

by Shirley Cooper

We really praise God for his provision and faithfulness with ACI. We are still sponsoring our two students from SE Asia. Cheung is doing really well with his studies and is moving forward to his next course. Thy is continuing to train as a medic and recently we have had someone sponsor her £10.00 per month. It will really help her with her studies. We still need to see more people raised to support the ACI initiative. This would help us to support the students and begin to grow a strong support base so eventually we can sponsor more people. If you know anyone who would like to do this or if you would like more information yourself please contact ACI@btbab.org

Redeeming the “Ish” in *Ishshab*: Creating the space for men to breathe again by Femi Oni

Most of you would have been following the flow of explosive news coming out of Hollywood of the systemic abuse of women that has been going on for over 5 decades. The details of the abuse are so awful that some of us would find it too disturbing to digest. But the stories are not only of men in Hollywood, but also of men in politics (with a high-profile government minister recently forced to resign in the UK). The Church has not been immune to the epidemic either. Almost every other month, *charisma* (world leading Christian magazine) spews out another story of so many of our men in Church who have also committed the same horrendous acts of abuse. Because the cry of those women are falling on deaf ears, they are taking charge of bringing those men to justice – and so they should too (infact, some of those men should be stripped of any awards they have been given in their field). Abuse in any form is deplorable and as Christians we should condemn it in the strongest terms. However, it is important not to lose sight of God’s redemptive power in all of this. Not all men are sexual predators. Just because we have had a bad experience of

men does not mean we should write off all men as useless. The story coming out in the media has been mostly about sexual abuse but there are also stories of other atrocious crimes of men against women such as physical abuse, or a man walking out of a woman whom he had gotten pregnant. These are horrendous ways for men to treat women but not all men are like this. There are behaviours too that men may not realise can have a profoundly negative effect on women (e.g. men keeping women waiting for too long because they can’t make up their mind about marriage!). But it may be because women project onto the men around them what they think define them – when they should be directed to fathers who can nurture them into manhood!

At times, because of these painful negative experiences, women have allowed their mouths to become filled with venom that has driven any good man a thousand miles away. So, we curse with our mouth saying “all men are useless”. The scripture says that a person shall be satisfied with the fruits of their mouth (Prov 18:20) – in other words, your mouth is a self-fulfilling part of your human anatomy! And it is not

only us who will keep eating of the fruit of the venom coming out of our mouth – it is also everyone who lives or works with you! If you are a mother reading this, and all your daughters have ever heard from your lips is how useless men are, then that’s what they will encounter in life... and they may end up never settling into a stable martial home! And if you have sons, and vomit such venom around them, then they may never become real men (in fact some of them may prefer to be women and end up in sexual perversion)... or they may not transition into real fatherhood.

We need to reclaim our men, we need to speak life about our sons, our husbands, our brothers, our fathers AND our male friends. Women need to feel loved, but a man can only give that love when he feels he is needed. After-all, when we go back to where it all started, it was God (in Gen 2: 18) who said that it is not good for a man (Hebrew “Ish”) to be alone, and so He made him a helper suitable for him and called her **woman** (Hebrew “**Ishshah**”). We need to stop killing our men with our mouth... or we will suffocate a whole generation of men trying to breathe.

Blessed
to be a
Blessing
freely you have received, freely give

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Freely you have received, freely give
(Mt 10: 8)

*BTBAB, otherwise known as **Blessed To Be A Blessing**, is a mission initiative established in 1997 as a practical demonstration of God’s love to the needs of the poor & underprivileged in the developing world.*

We have invested in almost 20 nations in the world and have already facilitated/ sent 25 mission teams to some of the poorest countries in the world. By God’s grace (expressed through the generosity of His people), over £100,000 has been invested so far.

We are a faith-based organisation - in other words, we depend on God to provide for our work through prayers and generous donations of friends and partners.

BTBAB is run by a Board of Directors, at operational level (supported by Coordinators) and accountable to a Board of Trustees.. Though a inter-denominational initiative, BTBAB values the importance of church-based ministry and therefore draws from the life of the local church, and has sent teams representing over 60 churches.

If you’d like to get involved, simply drop us an email to info@btbab.org and let us know if you would like to:

- ◆ **Be a Partner**
- ◆ **Go on Short-term Mission Trip**
- ◆ **Support our OCT projects overseas**
- ◆ **Sponsor an ACI recipient for as little as £10 monthly**
- ◆ **Be part of another person’s journey of faith by going on the Discipler’s course**
- ◆ **Give directly to missionaries we support**

If you are happy to inform us please let us know if this will be monthly or a lump sum, and the amount. Alternatively you can make cheques to *Blessed To Be A Blessing* (or BTBAB)

Or perhaps you simply want to give anonymously, then please contact us for our bank details.



*Getting
Involved*