

regularly in the area. After the student missionaries left, there were two Thai pastors in the area. One of these was forced to leave upon closure of the camp, and the other has moved to the United States. But Nang hasn't gone anywhere. Her family is now building a guest house — and as Nang will be unable to work outside the home, she will be staying in the house with those who visit and with her neighbors. She wants to work in her father's house — sharing her faith.

— Yvonne M. Terry,
Global Mission Correspondent, TAM

Newborn Souls

On Sabbath, August 22, four people submitted their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. Two of them had just been released from prison.

On Fridays and weekends students from the Theology Department of the Thailand Adventist Seminary go out to visit the nearby prison and churches. At the prison there are 14 prisoners interested in the Word of God. Every time our students visit them, prisoners are happy and eager to know the truth. "We are glad your people care for us and that the Lord of heaven cares for us," a prisoner said.

"We were imprisoned for ten years and now we are released, but only our bodies. Our souls are still imprisoned by Satan. We need Jesus Christ to release our souls from sin, too" the recently released prisoners said.

The other two baptized on August 22 were students from Mission College who studied the Bible with Kriangkai, a Theology student. After a thorough study they decided to give their lives to the Lord. "I love Jesus and want to be with Him. My birthday will come in a few days. Please baptize me, so I will have a full change in my life," said Wilachinee, one of the candidates.

Every weekend students from Mission College are involved in our Spiritual Outreach Program witnessing and visiting churches that have no pastor. Some travel up to 300 kilometers. Even though it is quite hard for them, they willingly do their part.

— Pakdee Tawinno, Pastor, Muak Lek Church
and Chairman, Thailand Adventist Seminary

Landmark Decision on Sabbath Exams

The Ministry of Education of the Royal Thai Government made a landmark decision on October 10. This decision will affect all Adventist students. Until now final exams for all compulsory subjects for non-formal education fell on Saturday. No exception has ever been made for any individual because the officials didn't want to change years of tradition.

Dr. Chokchuang Chutinaton, a member of the Ekamai Church, made a request on behalf of his junior-high age son, Daniel, that he be allowed to sit the exam on a day other than Sabbath. Further, he requested that the state change the schedule for compulsory subjects so that it would not be a problem for other Adventist secondary school students.

The request was first submitted to lower officials in the Ministry of Education, who turned it down. For the next two years Daniel, obeying the fourth commandment, did not sit for the exam on the Sabbath, which meant that he would not be able to finish his Thai secondary education.

Not to be put down easily, Dr. Chokchuang gathered his courage and took his request to higher and higher levels of the Ministry until it reached the desk of the Minister of Education, who arranged a personal interview with Dr. Chokchuang. After much prayer by the whole family, Dr. Chokchuang went to keep his appointment with the Minister. This meeting turned out to be very productive. The minister granted the request. Not only was Daniel allowed to take the exams at another time, but a declaration was made changing the exam schedule in the future to a rotating one in which compulsory subjects would fall on different days of the week.

The official declaration changing the exam schedule will affect the entire country. Praise the Lord for intervening to change the hearts of officials who had resisted change.

Daniel was allowed to sit for two exams on Saturday night. While other students were taking the exam, Daniel was kept in confinement and given the exams after sunset. Thank God for rewarding the faithfulness of Dr Chutinaton and his son by providing a way out for them when they chose to take a stand to keep His commandments, regardless of consequences.

— Lila Tidwell, Associate Director,
ADRA Thailand/Laos