

TIDINGS FROM THAILAND

Karl & Sun Dahlfred - Missionaries Among the Thai People



DECEMBER 2024

Karl & Sun Dahlfred
Chiang Mai, Thailand
www.dahlfred.com

 **karldahlfred**

 **@dahlfred**

Prayer Points

- God to open hearts to Christ at Christmas
- Thai churches to faithfully proclaim the Gospel
- Rest and renewal for our family
- Budget shortfall of 10-20% monthly

Praise God

- Discipleship & visitation with Grace Church Chiang Mai
- Publication of Karl's new book
- God's provision during 2024

Calendar

Dec 8 – Karl preaches at Grace Church Chiang Mai

Dec 22 – Karl & Joshua run Chiang Mai Marathon



Dear Family and Friends,

I hope you're all doing well and looking forward to Christmas and New Year's. We're finally at the end of the year and it is time to look back and look ahead. We really appreciate you standing with us as we minister in Thailand.

Christmas in Thailand

Christmas in Thailand is a bit of a weird time. Churches are gearing up for evangelism with lots of extra activities with non-believers in mind. They are also caroling from house to house and doing outreaches in local schools (among other places). Meanwhile, the majority Buddhist culture is putting up generic Christmas decorations like lights, wreaths, snowflakes, Santa, etc. under the banner of some vague, amorphous winter festival. Retailers are taking full advantage of the opportunity to sell more stuff. Stores and coffee shops are playing what they think is Christmas music, namely Mariah Carey and Wham on repeat. Regarding Christmas, I want to ask for prayer in a few areas. First, pray that the Holy Spirit would use the natural curiosity that Thai Buddhists have about Christmas to open their hearts to hearing the Gospel message. Second, pray that Thai churches would clearly proclaim the Gospel. Third, please pray that our family will be able to get some rest around Christmas and New Year's. We've had a busy year.

Discipling New Believers

Every Tuesday afternoon Pastor Jed and I meet with a small group of new believers from Grace Church Chiang Mai. We pray for each other, open the Scriptures, and address whatever questions come up. This time is really crucial in helping them get a better grasp on the faith and equips them to answer and interact with the many non-Christians in their lives. One man in our group who got baptized last year told us of a non-Christian friend who asked if it was true that he'd become a Christian and what that was all about. "Pastor, what should I say to him? How should I answer?" Coaching new believers in talking about the Gospel is an important part of both evangelism and discipleship. Please keep praying for the growth of new believers at Grace Church Chiang Mai. Pray that God would use them to introduce their friends, relatives, neighbors, etc. to Jesus Christ.

Now Available ~ Karl's New Book

I am pleased to announce that the book version of my dissertation has now been published as, *Conservative in Theology, Liberal in Spirit: Modernism and the American Presbyterian Mission in Thailand, 1891-1941*. You can order it from Wipf & Stock Publishers and Amazon. It is my hope and prayer that this book will be a blessing to many in the years to come, including missionaries working with Thai people, Thai Church leaders, and more. It is a history book and is heavy on narrative, so you'll probably find it much more accessible than other books that started out as a doctoral dissertation. If you have a chance to read it, please consider leaving a review on Amazon in order to encourage others to read it too.

Jehovah Jireh

We're thankful for God's provision though recently one of our larger supporting churches informed us that this is the last year they will support us because their mission priorities have changed. This was obviously disappointing, and we look to see how God will make up that support gap in the future.

May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you with joy during this advent and Christmas season, and give you rest and refreshment as we look ahead to a new year.

Blessings in Christ,
Karl & Sun Dahlfred

Donations may be sent to: OMF International, 10 W. Dry Creek Circle, Littleton, CO 80120 (Please include note indicating support for Karl & Sun Dahlfred) // Pledges and Donations may also be given at online at partnerhub.omf.org/KSD1