

Paul and Sarah Brown

A Godly Perspective

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Since our return to Thailand Karen Baptist Convention (TKBC), we have been busy preparing Bible-based lessons to teach English at Siloam Bible Institute (SBI) which is different from the way we taught last term. The students we are teaching are at beginner level. Teaching the Bible in English is hard at this level, however by teaching from a Godly perspective, using key bible stories and circumstances in life, we can greatly see the benefits of using the bible to teach English. The amazing bonus is the students are learning well and we are learning with them.

In our previous newsletter, we mentioned the potential of us increasing the number of times we will be teaching at SBI. Last term SBI had five teachers covering all areas of the English programme, however, by the time we left for home assignment and the new term started in May, there was only 1 teacher – Ajarn Tender to cover all the student years by himself (with teachers naturally leaving into other roles or returning to home countries).

Following our meeting with the new TKBC General Secretary Ajarn Joel, to discuss and pray how best we can serve at TKBC in this new term, it was decided that we should spend more time at SBI, to help with the teacher shortfall. We want to firstly thank you for your prayers on this matter. There are now five teachers, however, they are not all full-time. We had a lovely surprise to see Dashy, whom you may remember from our April 2023 newsletter. He was one of Paul's students from last term who graduated this year. Since graduating, Dashy had been praying about coming back to teach at SBI; he is now teaching 1 day a week, alongside continuing to study Theology at University. There are also two other ex-students teaching in the Karen Theology programme - it is encouraging that ex-students return to teach at SBI, which is a testimony that shows how much they valued their time at SBI and their commitment to pour into future teachers and leaders.



This slight change in our roles means that we are now based at SBI, not the TKBC office. SBI is in a slightly more remote location, with lush green fields, the beautiful nature of Chiang Mai, a vast number of cats and dogs that make themselves known around all mealtimes, ducks, pigs and vegetable patches that the students help to look after and maintain, which in turn is producing a great ecosystem and benefiting the environment.

Upon our return, the first term at SBI, was in full swing. The students returned in mid-May, whilst we were on home assignment. Therefore, we had to quickly organise ourselves to get our teaching hats back on. It has been a joy to return to teaching the students, who absolutely keep us on our toes.



We have been asked by several people why these Karen students are studying Theology in English. SBI does run the Theology programme in the Karen language, however, the students we teach have elected to take the course in English.

For those who opt to study the programme in English; it unlocks the opportunity for them to study at a higher level in the future, many of the students want to go on to work with Christian organisations at an international level, which makes them valuable, further opening more opportunities for them to reach and serve a wider network.



The first term ended mid-September with every student and teacher joining the annual sports day done Olympic style – which included a team parade, flame lighting ceremony and commentary throughout. We joined in playing Volleyball and Chairball, however, we paid for it the next day with aches and pains trying to keep up with the youthful students.

During the term break, the SBI students went on their first mission trip to Mae Cheam, spending time, in worship, praying for, encouraging, and doing building work in the Karen communities.

This term break has also given us the opportunity to compile more teaching resources, so we can be more prepared for the second term that starts at the beginning of October, translating TKBC documents from Thai to English and continuing to serve at the church we attend.



Thank God:

- * Some of the teaching gaps at SBI have been filled (this is an answer to prayer from our June 2023 newsletter).
- * For the ex-SBI students who have returned to teach at SBI to help fill the gaps.
- * The Karen communities reached in Mae Cheam during the SBI mission trip.

Pray for:

- * Upcoming annual conferences – The TKBC Women's & Youth Day and the Thailand Baptist Missionary Fellowship (TBMF) conference all happening in October.

Teaching English from a biblical perspective has reminded us that every aspect pertaining to our lives is in God's Word. The biblical idea of knowledge and wisdom shows us that the importance of education is far greater than just solving problems – it helps to put God at the centre and to love God and others more. It is helping us to teach from a place of humility, and have complete reliance on the Lord who is helping us to teach, encourage, instruct, mentor, praise, influence, guide and inspire one student (future leader/teacher) at a time.

Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. – Proverbs 1:7 (NLT)

With Love

Yours In Christ

Paul & Sarah

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