

***We received our report from brother Samrit Kammanee. Please read and also say a prayer for this good work to continue to grow.***

Sa Wad Dee Krub,  
Greetings to you all from the kingdom of Thailand. It is my prayers that this email finds you well.

I would like to give you updates concerning the Lord's work in northeast Thailand and ask you to continue remembering us in your prayers.

1. We have been studying the Bible with a man named Gosin Hongkhammee. If you remember brother Arom Hongkhammee (a former Buddhist monk we converted some years ago), this is his son. Brother Arom first brought his wife to Christ a few years ago. Arom and his wife have three children. Being concerned about their Buddhist children's souls, with hope, they have been trying to bring their children to Christ. Only Gosin lives close by and got to learn at this present time. The other two live and work in Bangkok. Gosin has personally studied with me once and another time with my father. The Bible study with Gosin is going on. Please pray for this soul as we continue to study together.

2. I will be traveling 165 miles southwest of Kalasin to Chaiyaphoom province this Friday to conduct a weekend Bible school. This is the province where we recently restored a congregation of the Lord. In the last update in October, I told you about the preaching there and that we had two baptisms on that occasion. The church there meets in a family's house and has about 15 in attendance. On this coming visit, I was told that we expect some interested people---some of the Buddhist people who want to hear the gospel of Christ. So I plan to have another two brothers with me on this trip so that while I teach the believers, they can teach non-believers. The topic I chose to teach this newer restored congregation is "THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT." Please pray for my trip and the teaching and preaching this coming weekend that it will bring fruits to the kingdom of God.

As always, my deepest appreciation to each and everyone of you for being a wonderful partnership in bringing the gospel of Christ to the world. May God continue to bless us all as we strive to serve Him.

In Christian love,  
Samrit, Michele, Gaby and Annie  
(For Thailand Mission)

## **“Relationship, Not Religion”**

*Dub McClish*

Some time ago a denomination in Dallas, Texas, advertised its aim as “relationship, not religion.” When I read it, I thought, “At last, truth in advertising!” Actually, most of the religious groups that claim to be “Christian” have been placing “relationship” ahead of “religion” all along, but seldom do they advertise it. In fact, some of them may not even recognize that they are doing so.

What does their slogan mean? I infer that it means that their principal aim is to encourage good human relations. The slogan implies that the church members are free to believe and practice whatever pleases them in religion and to behave about any way they choose in their daily lives—as long as they maintain good “relationships” in so doing. A further implication is that they will not be “burdened” with any dogma, doctrine, or requisite practices (especially if they are taught in the Bible, no doubt).

This “version” of “Christianity” is one of the many sorry ends of the old slogan, “It makes no difference what you believe, as long as you’re sincere.” If “relationship” supersedes religion, one may keep his third wife who has had four husbands as long as the two presently have a “good relationship.” In this creed it matters little what one believes about the Creation, baptism, the way God has directed men to worship Him, or the verbal inspiration of the Bible. Such are irrelevant as long as one knows how to “get along” with others.

The greater tragedy is that some congregations that wear the name, “Church of Christ,” have adopted just such an emphasis. Some congregations now boast of being havens for those involved in adulterous marriages. If these groups were honest, they would no longer use Church of Christ on their signs. We are beginning to see integrity in this regard in some. Max Lucado renamed his Oak Hills Church of Christ in San Antonio “Oak Hills Church” in 2003. Some of us have for years begged the elders of the North Richland Hills “Church of Christ” near Fort Worth to take this step. It is at least approaching honesty in this regard. Its marquee read on one occasion, “If you are looking for an independent community church, call \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_.” To no one’s surprise, NRH recently announced it would begin conducting a service on Saturday nights which will feature instrumental music and the “Lord’s supper.” Those apostates who are zealous to lead the church into fellowship with the denominations consistently soft-pedal doctrine in favor of an “irenic (peaceful) spirit” toward and relationship with men.

No one can deny the importance of correct relationships. However, even a neophyte in Bible teaching cannot miss its primary emphasis on the right relationship with God. It is not possible to be rightly related to one’s fellow man if he is not rightly related to God. The correct order is always peace with God, then peace with man (Mat. 10:37; Luke 12:51–53; Acts 5:29; et al.). There is no peace with God without respect for the authority of His Son (Mat. 17:5; Heb. 1:1–2; 5:9; et al.). Only when one has the right religion (as defined by the New Testament) will he have the right relationship with both God and men

# NEWS AND NOTES

**“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)**

*Clydene Nelson* is now at home with full-time care providers.

*Bob Dodson*, Jerry’s brother, is in NEA room 5202.

*Linda Baker* is now home but is very weak.

*Gerald George* will be having double by-pass heart surgery but must be off some of his medications before the surgery can be scheduled.

*Ryan Hopkins, son of Jan Hopkins*, is in ICU at NEA Baptist after suffering seizures.

*Please continue to pray for all of these and others who are at home recovering from recent surgeries or confinement.*

## IN OTHER NEWS:

**“Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.” (Hebrews 10:24)**

*Ukraine Missions Buckets:* Please bring *travel tissues* and *clothes pins*.

*December Ladies’ Night Out will be December 13<sup>th</sup>, Monday night, at 6:30 p.m. in the basement.* Please bring finger food with a Christmas theme, a holiday picture of yourself when you were younger, and an ornament to exchange.

### Those Privileged To Serve December 5, 2021

#### SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Ben Johns  
Opening Prayer: Logan Snyder  
Closing Prayer: Robert Stephens  
Bible Reading: Jimmie Powell  
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

#### LORD’S TABLE

Presiding: Scottie Blanchard  
Reginald Read Mike Felts  
David Loggins Scott Pratt  
Hal Baugh James Johnson

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Nichols

#### SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Kevin Roush  
Opening Prayer: Mark Wooten  
Closing Prayer: Mitch Mosley  
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

December 8, 2021

Song Leader: Randy Oden  
Opening Prayer: Jerry Dodson  
Closing Prayer: Kevin Roush

#### DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

December 8, 2021  
J. L. May

### NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK Week Of November 28, 2021

Sunday Bible Study 74  
Sunday AM Worship 104  
Sunday PM Worship 80  
Wednesday Bible Study  
Contribution \$4776

**“As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.”**

**Proverbs 26:14**

# The Friend of Truth



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Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

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“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

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## KeeNotes

*“I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” (Exodus 20:2,3)*

There is no formal statement saying that there are no other gods because the nations had theirs, but He is the God of Israel. He belonged to them. As their God, He demanded their exclusive affection and obedience. The conflict in Egypt had served as a blow to the gods of Egypt. Jehovah was the God of thunder and lightning, light and darkness, rain and hail, cattle and vegetation, of the Nile and of the sea, and of life and death.

As Moses wrote the book of Genesis by inspiration, God reveals that light is not divine, neither is land, nor heavenly lights, nor vegetation, nor animals, nor any other entity. These were all creations, but not the Creator. The Creator is far greater than His creation.

To the Jews God was to be as real as was Pharaoh. Paul saw in these things that were created the reflection of God’s power and of His will. He is the Creator,

*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen” (Romans 1:18-25).*

There are three things required by this commandment—(1) We must have a God, which means we must reject atheism; (2) We must have the Lord Jehovah as our God, therefore we reject all false religions; (3) Jehovah God is alone our God, therefore we reject any thoughts of polytheism.

Terry Joe

#### SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols  
Randy Oden

#### DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard  
Jerry Dodson  
Stacy Eddleman  
Mike Felts  
Jason Garland  
Scott Pratt  
Kevin Roush  
Mark Wooten

#### MISSIONARIES

Samrit Kammanee,  
Southeast Asia  
Micah Robertson,  
Montana  
Warren, PA

#### SERVICES

##### SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:00 a.m.  
5:00 p.m.

##### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

#### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

*Hear* the Word of God  
Romans 10:17  
*Believe* the Word of God  
John 8:24  
*Repent* of your sins  
Luke 13:3  
*Confess* your faith in Jesus  
as the Son of God  
Romans 10:9,10  
*Be Baptized* for the  
remission of your sins  
Acts 2:38  
*Live faithfully*  
Revelation 2:10

*“Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” (John 4:35)*

*Each One Invite One in Twenty-One*