

5/4/18

Hi everyone. I have turned a corner now and am on my way back to the US, through Kunming, China. Long layover of 13 hours. I got a cheap hotel room, except that it is a beautiful new hotel. No one speaks a word of English! Interesting paying the bill, getting a receipt, getting the airport shuttle, finding a bite to eat!

The time in Thailand was wonderful and very interesting. I met with a pastor who is also coordinating a growing group of house churches, two mountain church planters in Northern Thailand, and other leaders associated with our partner in Thailand. I am somewhat disappointed with what they have learned and applied from the training we gave most of them. Even after two modifications it appears we need to simplify the training or find others who can train them in simpler ways and live in their country, speaking their language. Their leader watched as I asked coaching questions of each planter and he is convinced he and the other leaders need to learn how to do coaching – asking good questions and listening carefully for answers, and then asking deeper questions to get at important issues.

Thanks so much for your prayers. Lessons about what to change and improve are sometimes the best lessons since they put us on the track to do better work. I am convinced of the need to better understand our partners, their strengths and weaknesses, and to find different kinds of resources and help which will be appropriate for where they are at. This work of bridging cultures is hard. I am now working in four different cultures and languages: Burmese, Hindi, Thai, and Lahu. I do not speak these languages, but need to understand their culture and church culture enough to engage them and help them move forward. I feel very challenged. The work is humbling since I meet leaders who are making huge sacrifices for the Gospel.

Thanks so much for your prayers! Much good work has been accomplished (not all that I hoped) and much has been learned. Please pray as I join others next week for meetings and discuss with them what I have learned and consider with them how we can do better work among our national partners. Oh for great discernment from God as we move forward!

Que Dieu vous bénisse / May God bless you!

Jay Pinney

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