

DeVine MINISTRIES

"Taking the gospel where it has never gone before"



March 2017 www.jdevineministries.com P.O. Box 7138 Rainbow City, AL 35906-7138

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." NKJV

More than two years ago, our family moved to a smaller city about 31 miles from our home. God led us to Nong Bua Lamphu, to the city where we met a small group of believers that have blessed us and have become good friends. When we first moved in December of 2014, we knew no one in this town, but through a friend in Udon, we heard of a church nearby. The very first Sunday we attended this small church with no more than 5 people at the time, was a Sunday I'll never forget. Ma Daeng, an older lady most people affectionately refer to as 'Mother Daeng', greeted us so kindly and shared her testimony with us. She and her husband were parents of five children, now grown and living nearby. Over the course of 2 years our family has grown closer to hers and cherishes the relationship we have with fellow Christians. Her oldest son leads praise and worship with Ariya and me every Sunday that we attend, and Ma Daeng has always blessed everyone with her great cooking. Her youngest son Jop, who was nineteen years old, was amazingly talented. He had a beautiful voice and could play multiple instruments. It could be said that he made his parents very proud.

On the 1st of this month we received a message from Ma Daeng's family early in the morning that, tragically, Jop had been in an accident and died before the ambulance could get there. Our hearts broke for them, and over the course of a week, we were there to comfort them and attend the funeral. Jop had many friends from high school and many who were band members with him, who were not believers. They all attended the ceremonies, and through the speaking of many Christians, saw the hope that we have in knowing that death is not the end. All of them heard how Jop believed in Jesus and that we have comfort in knowing that we'll see him again in heaven; they also heard the Gospel message. A few were greatly moved. Ma Daeng's oldest daughter has always opposed her family's faith. She had been the one to argue against it the most and rejected it time and time again, but after the funeral, she went to her mother and asked if she could accept Jesus as her Lord and Savior.



Githipope (Jop) Tongpone
August 15, 1997 - March 1, 2017

Though losing a loved one is always sad and heart breaking, we believers know that anyone who puts their faith in Jesus Christ and surrenders their life to Him, will receive salvation and that we will see them again. Ma Daeng is confident in her faith, and she has remained strong this entire time. She had told us that she was able to minister to many of Jop's young friends. Through this hard time, we have still seen much good that has come out of it all.



Praying with Ma Daeng,
her husband, and family

God has blessed us so much. Last month Ariya and I launched our GoFundMe campaign to help us in our journey of becoming equipped to serve full-time on the mission field. Thank you to everyone who has helped us so far. We greatly appreciate it and are looking forward to seeing some of you in the States when we go. You all have been so kind.



We are excited for an upcoming mission team! Our ministry will be welcoming two Charis Bible College students that will serve with us for 6 weeks. We are happy to receive them as they will arrive in a few days. While they are here, we and our Thai Christian friends, will go out and do outreaches, teach, perform skits and dramas, and preach the Gospel to people in the surrounding areas. We are excited for the mission team to have this opportunity to see Thailand and know what it's like to be a missionary here. Next month, we will be eager to share more with you about all that will take place.

God bless you,
Arisa and Ariya DeVine

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