

Mien & Family News **from C. W. Callaway, June 2009**

“So now we have a high priest who perfectly fits our needs: completely holy, uncompromised by sin, with authority extending as high as God’s presence in heaven itself.” Heb. 7:26 The Message paraphrase



**How did
I ever
get this
old?**

My dear friends,

The months have rushed past since my last prayer letter.. So for this issue I must give you mainly some highlights in Mien ministries.

2008 ---IN RETROSPECT

3 events last year were especially memorable:

June 7, 2008 DEDICATION OF MIEN BIBLE

In March there was a big dedication in Thailand but US Mien wanted to do it again. How happy they were to have the whole Bible in Mien. Also ordained 3 pastors that day.

July 15-19, 2008 Mien Youth Camp-Compelled!

338 campers, 18 baptized. 8 youth leaders from Thailand were here to help out!

Aug. 8-10 At Mien Family Camp we had another big celebration of the Mien Bible. Theme was:

‘The Amazing Word of God.’ Biggest attendance ever of 529! 8 baptisms Translators were there to tell in person of their 27 year’s on the translation.

2009 --- SO FAR

In U.S.

Pastor’s retreat, Couples’ Retreat, Retreats for children, women, local churches, etc.

In Thailand.

About 300 attended the adult Camp in March. Youth Camp in April had about 270 campers. There were over 60 making life-changing decisions. Camp theme was “Christ has set us free” Gal. 5:1

Progress is being made toward the goal of distributing Gospel DVD’s in all 70+ Mien villages in Thailand & for starting a Mien church in Bangkok.

In restricted countries.

For the protection of believers there we must be very careful as to what we report. But a number of workers are faithfully laboring & good progress is being made in many areas. Leaders are being trained regularly, Bibles are being distributed, souls are being won, and peoples of other ethnicities are being disciplined by Mien leaders.

2009 --- YET AHEAD

June 24-26 Mien Leadership School, Richmond.

July 14-18 Youth Camp-21st year.

Aug. 14-16 Family Camp 18^h year. Plan is to express appreciation to missionaries there.

Nov. ? Marriage retreat in California.

More ministry trips to Asia & distribution of Mien Bibles, DVD’s, etc.

Dec. annual couples’ retreat in Thailand.

MIEN RADIO MINISTRY

The first Mien broadcast was March 5, 1994 so we are now into the 15th year and currently broadcast daily for a total of 7 ½ hours each week. These broadcasts have especially contributed toward the rapid growth of the Mien church in Vietnam.

Many letters are received from Asian listeners. One said, “My wife is weak spiritually and is not supporting me in the ministry. So at a point I was about ready to give up serving the Lord. But then I heard on a Mien radio broadcast that the Lord will reward us according to our individual service.. Because of this I was encouraged and continue to serve the Lord even though it is hard and difficult.”

NEW RESOURCES

The Mien Bible in 3 scripts is available on the web at <http://thaibible.or.th/mienbible/>

The Mien/English dictionary with cultural notes by Dr. Purnell should be available in a few months.

Work is progressing on Bible concordances and other aids to Bible Study and literacy.

I prepared a new guide to help Mien youth educated in English to become literate in Mien. I will gladly send that as an e-mail attachment to any who request it. Ask for “Tengx Guai Siepv !”

CURRENT STATE OF MIEN CHURCH

There are now 25 Mien churches on the U.S. west coast. Christians along with all their children total about 5,000 or about 17% of the total Mien U.S. population of around 30,000. There are

also much smaller numbers of Mien Christians in Canada and France. In SE Asia there are about 1 ½ million Iu-Mien, and they are the largest branch of the Yao peoples. We estimate that there are now around 11,000 Mien Christians in Vietnam, 2,000 in Thailand, 800 in Laos, and 200 in China. Overall there has been a healthy growth in both numbers and spiritual maturity in Christ.

MY FAMILY

Jeni & John have moved back to U.S. but are still raising financial & prayer support for the dormitory student ministry in Chiangkham. I am blessed to have them and their family here. Most of my other children have already visited me this year.

My son David's daughter Mindy & family in Minnesota suffered the loss of the apartment where they were living & most of their belongings in a big fire last December. However, an anonymous donor gave a million dollars to help & others gave freely so they have recovered well and are now comfortable in a rented home. I praise the Lord for His care.

ME? SLOWING DOWN – SORTA !

My general health overall has been good for my age but for many months I have not been able to sleep properly so generally feel tired and can not accomplish nearly so much in a day. Realizing that my days are numbered I have updated my will, power of attorney and health care directive. Also Pao Ho Saephan has kindly taken over my job of coordinating counselors for youth camp and Nying Chien Phan will soon be taking over teaching my Sunday School class. Hopefully I can have more time to write my memoirs and other materials.

As Hebrews 7:26 quoted in my heading declares, Jesus, my great High Priest, wonderfully meets all my needs day after day. What a joy to go ahead serving Him in the best way I can even in these declining years of my life here below.

All for Jesus, C. W.



Me with other Sunday School teachers, Richmond

NOTES FOR PRAISE & PRAYER

1. Praise God for a growing missionary vision among the Mien Christians.
2. Praise Him for those who sacrificially go to Asian countries to witness to non-Christians and to train new leaders & church planters. Pray for their safety in dangerous situations.
3. Praise Him for a number of Mien young adults who are dedicating their lives to full-time Christian ministries.
4. Pray for the Mien missionary family as well as others who live & serve in foreign lands.
5. Pray for those planning toward the starting of a Mien church in Bangkok.
6. Pray for our Mien Radio staff as they record portions of the new Mien Bible for listeners.
7. Pray for the many camps, retreats, training programs in U.S. and abroad that Mien Christians may be well disciplined and a strong leadership developed and maintained.
8. Pray for spiritual fervor, new life and zeal among those who are lukewarm.
9. Pray for my own health physically & spiritually as well as for my children & their families.

DO I HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

If you would like more frequent news bits please send your address to cwc@pacbell.net

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Contributors to my work who desire tax deductible receipts should make checks payable to "Washington Ave. Christian Church" and mail to **Steve Callaway, 5108 McCarty, Amarillo, TX 79110** Please add memo "CW Mien ministry."

Others may make checks payable to "C W Callaway" and mail directly to me if you like.

Contributions for Mien Radio should be payable to "Mien Christian Fellowship" & memo "Radio" and mail to P.O. Box 5467, Richmond, CA 94805