

AN UNEXPECTED HARVEST

COLOMBIA

By Einer Zuluaga

Fifteen years ago, in 2002, we were preparing to leave Colombia to begin our ministry with the indigenous Wounaan people of Panama. It was daunting; we felt like a small grain of sand in the face of their needs so preoccupied were we, that we almost missed a need that was right in front of our own faces.

For a year we had been helping collect the rent on a small apartment in Cali leased by Trever and Joan Godard. They had sublet to a young couple, Fabian and Claudia, who had two beautiful children and many beautiful dreams. I enjoyed visiting with them each month when I went to collect the rent, but the last time I did so, I was in a hurry. Then God prompted me to pay attention, and I noticed sadness in their faces.

“It has been a cruel time,” Fabian said, ashamed. “We are not doing well economically, and this is affecting our marriage.”

Seeing their pain, I spoke to them of faith in Christ. I prayed, commending them to the Father. Shortly after that, my wife and I left for Panama, never expecting to see them again. More than twelve years passed, and I confess I did not think about them at all.

Then, in 2016, I travelled to California to visit a friend who had once served with us in Colombia. To my surprise, he asked if I remembered Fabian. “He wants you to call him,” my friend said, handing me a scrap of paper with a phone number. I wasted not a moment, but called immediately. Fabian answered, and when he heard my voice he began to cry. They were tears of joy.

“My life changed direction that day you prayed for us,” he said. “I met the Lord, and he saved me. Now my wife and I are pastors!” I was stunned. Fabian had found his calling ministering to bikers in Cali, sharing the Gospel with people that others avoided. He welcomed them – tattoos, long hair, leather jackets and all – and in turn they welcomed Jesus into their lives.

I rejoiced with Fabian, and we promised that we would find a way to meet again. This did not happen until 2018, a full fifteen years after I had, almost carelessly, sown the seed of God’s Word in his life. A seed that yielded an unexpected harvest.



SOMETHING I CAN DO

THAILAND

By Ko Kyaw Lin

(As told to Jeremy & Adrienne Penner)

We had been in Bang Chalong for months, and while we clearly felt God leading us to serve there, I often faced many feelings of inadequacy. I had never planted a church before. In fact, I barely finished two years of Bible College! I don’t play guitar, so I couldn’t even use music as a way to draw people in. There were so many gifts that I lacked, so much that I could not do.

Then God showed me that there was one thing that I could do. I learned this from the Book of Nehemiah. I saw that Nehemiah spent a lot of time in prayer before he ever built anything. I thought to myself, that’s something I can do! I can pray! So I began to do this.

We would rise early, at four in the morning, so that we could stand on a high bridge and see everyone going off to their jobs. We prayed over each person that we saw. Then we would walk the streets of Bang Chalong, praying for opportunities to meet people, to build relationships and to share the Gospel. As we walked and prayed, we met so many Burmese factory workers, curious as to what we were doing. We formed many new friendships in the community, and had many opportunities to share about Jesus.

My wife and I prayed between six and eight hours a day, for three months, and nothing happened. During that whole time, no one showed any interest in church. Then suddenly one day, people began to come! More and more came to us to worship and hear about Jesus. Somehow God formed a new church, birthed out of our prayers!

We still continue with our prayer walks, meeting new people on the street every day. We take the time to get to know them, offering to help find them jobs or a place to live. We serve any way we can, even doing translation from Thai to Burmese at the local hospital. In so many ways I still feel like I am not doing enough, but now I see that it is not about what we can do, but about what God can do, when we just talk to him, and listen and obey his voice!

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Daily Prayer Guide

October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Wendy Eros Japan	2 Ricky & Karen Huebert-Sanchez Thailand	3 Robert & Anne Thiessen Mexico	4 M & R Restricted	5 Melvin & Gudrun Warkentin Paraguay	6 Robert & Marlene Baerg Mongolia
7 Motohiro & Mariya Hamana Thailand	8 P & S Restricted	9 Rebecca Hiebert Thailand	10 AK Restricted	11 Stacy Kuhns Peru	12 Edd & Ingrid Russell Thailand	13 S & B Restricted
14 Dave & Louise Sinclair-Peters Thailand	15 C & F Restricted	16 Cory & Masami Giesbrecht Japan	17 Jill Ramer Thailand	18 M & V Restricted	19 Joanna Pharazyn Portugal	20 J & F Restricted
21 Sandra Fender Thailand	22 VR Ukraine	23 Cynthia Friesen Thailand	24 S & D Restricted	25 Tony & Sarah Brown Panama	26 J & M Restricted	27 Phil & Carol Bergen Burkina Faso
28 Johanna Neudorf Germany	29 Doug & Deanna Hiebert Burundi	30 Joanna Chapa Peru	31 S & S Restricted			