



# TIMOTHY TWO Project International

## December 2024/Thailand, Chiang Rai/ Newsletter from Nico and Roxanne van Zyl



“Let the people praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you” (Psalm 67:5).

Greetings in the glorious name of Jesus Christ.

First of all, we want to say a big thank you to all the churches and individuals who support us and our work in Thailand. We thank God for your partnership in the gospel. Your prayers and giving have made it possible for us to come to Thailand and preach the gospel and live among the Thai people. Our goal is to glorify God here in evangelism, church planting, and training of leaders. This is why we came to Thailand and why we believe God has sent us. What a year this has been. We said our goodbyes to family and friends in South Africa in June. It was hard to leave my family and the family at Birchleigh Baptist Church and African Pastors' Conferences and the many friends we made. We have now been in Thailand for over 6 months. Our language

studies are going well. Although progress seems slow, there is definitely progress. Although neither Roxanne nor I can speak Thai fluently now, we can speak a little and order food and have basic forms of conversation. But we are in language school for two years. We trust the Lord that by the end of two years we will really have a firm handle on the language, and I hope to be preaching in Thai by then. Since we came to Chiang Rai in Thailand, we have attended two churches, a bilingual church called "Baan Athithaan" (which means House of Prayer) and Redeemed Church (this is a Thai church). I have had the privilege to preach at Redeemed Church once in November and hopefully will do so in the future as well. This is also the place where we have our workshops with Timothy Two Project International (TTPI). But Matt and I have prayed and talked about church planting as well. We desire to plant a Reformed Baptist church in Thailand for the Thai people. As we prayed and talked about this, we decided to start a bilingual Sunday service in our homes on a Sunday afternoon. The churches here in Thailand don't have afternoon or evening services. The aim is to preach in English or Thai and then have a translation. So, three weeks ago we bought some chairs and started our first service two weeks ago. We have decided to preach through the book of Colossians. Only English speakers came, but we hope that we may attract Thai people as well in the future. We can seat about 30-40 people in our living rooms. Please pray as we start to worship together we may also reach foreigners with the gospel in Thailand. There are many in Chiang Rai.

We also did another workshop in November with TTPI. We have now finished our first two workshops on the attributes of God and plan to continue Workbook 2 with the same group in February in Chiang Rai. We had a wonderful time with about 6 students. The interactions we had were good, although some were reluctant to speak. Many had insightful contributions to make and penetrating questions on the topics. One of the delegates said he wants to meet with Matt and me regularly to talk about the Bible. Matt, who is already fluent in Thai, and I were teaching at the workshop, and Pastor A Chi from Redeemed Church was translating. They already are eager to know when we are going to have our next workshop. Workbook 2 deals with the Person of Christ and the doctrine of salvation. I have done a few recordings of the sessions, and they can be listened to on this website. [www.interethnicmissions.net](http://www.interethnicmissions.net). We also plan to do two more groups in the coming year in northern Thailand. A door has opened in Mae Ai, about 100 kilometres from us, where a group of about 30 pastors among the Lahu people requested training. This is a great opportunity, and I hope to do six four-day workshops next year with them. Then also, we plan to start a group in Chiang Kong where our training centre is located. I have also done Zoom meetings with a group of pastors in the Odisha state in India for the last three years, preaching through the book of Ephesians and doing teaching on other topics. I hope to go in April and start a workshop there as well and hope to go twice next year. So you can see, 2025 is going to be a full year for us.



***Thanksgiving with friends***



***Celebrating thanksgiving in Thailand***



***Our first worship service at home.***



***Our second Workshop in Chiang Rai***

On the home front, Roxanne has recently had her birthday, and we had a wonderful time, dinner at a local restaurant. We also had Thanksgiving with some American families at the end of November. Roxanne is still busy working hard homeschooling Nicolas as usual and really going out of her way to teach him only as a kindergarten teacher can do. I also help a little when a Bible lesson a day. I'm working through a book: *Leading Little ones to God*, by Marian M Schoolland, a tremendous resource for kids. We hope in the coming year to get someone to look after Nicolas in the mornings so we can spend more time learning Thai. We both feel we don't get enough time studying. Also, with Christmas around the corner, we have a two-week holiday where we plan to visit Chiang Mai and other places in our area. Roxanne has done an excellent job in making our house a home, with beautiful decorations everywhere. We are also so glad that our container arrived in October. With my books with me, I also



feel much at home. Roxanne is also still teaching English classes online twice a week in the evenings. Here are two recorded messages from our workshop below:

<https://interethnicmissions.net/2024/12/09/the-love-of-god-ttpi/>  
<https://interethnicmissions.net/2024/12/09/the-justice-of-god-ttpi/>

To donate to our work in Thailand go here:  
[https://app.aplos.com/aws/give/Timothy\\_Two/Van\\_Zyl](https://app.aplos.com/aws/give/Timothy_Two/Van_Zyl)

Three pressing needs for the coming year are:

- a) We need to put down \$4000 by the end of January for the next semester at our language school and then another \$4000 by July of next year. Please pray for us that God would provide in this need.
- b) Although our workshops in Chiang Rai, Chiang Kong, and Mae Ai are close by, there are some running costs for these needed, like food and basic printing of workbooks, lunch for the delegates, etcetera. If you and your church want to contribute to this please do so at the link below.
- c) If God provides, I would like to go to India and do a weeklong workshop in India in April 2025. I would roughly need \$4000 for that workshop. I would also like to do a second workshop in November in 2025. This invitation to come to train these pastors has already come in 2021.



***Carol singing at our house***



***The orphanage children singing***

I am thankful to announce that I have written another book, titled “Blessed according to Jesus Christ, subtitle: The authentic marks of a Christian. This book was born out of a sermon series I had done in 2019 at Birchleigh Baptist Church. And by the encouragement of a brother, decided to put them in a book. This book is now available on Amazon.com on Kindle. If you don’t have Kindle, I can send you a PDF copy as well. It is available as a free download only for one week.

[https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Nico+van+Zyl&crd=2VESNMDCHWKEU&srefix=nico+van+zyl+%2Caps%2C332&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss\\_2](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Nico+van+Zyl&crd=2VESNMDCHWKEU&srefix=nico+van+zyl+%2Caps%2C332&ref=nb_sb_noss_2)

Praise and Prayer requests:

- a) Thank God that we were able to finish two workshops this year in Chiang Rai; pray for continued fruit on these
- b) Thank God for more opportunities to train pastors in Chiang Kong, Mae Ai, and in India next year.
- c) Thank God for the birth of Christ, through whom we have eternal life as a gift and forgiveness of sins.
- d) Thank God that we could start a worship service at our homes and for those who attend them.
- e) We thank God for all our supporters; may God richly bless you.

Prayer:

- a) Pray for provision for our language school fees for next year and also for the workshops we plan to do next year in Northern Thailand and, God willing, in India.
- b) Pray that the teaching and preaching at our workshops and our Sunday services would bear much fruit to the glory of God.
- c) Pray for my ministry at the orphanage. It has been a good opportunity to preach the gospel, and I pray that our relationship with Sirsak may continue.
- d) Pray for Roxanne, Nicolas, and me as we continue learning Thai, that God would help us and that we would remember and use what we learn.
- e) Pray for Roxanne as she continues to teach Nicolas. Pray also for me as I work my way through a Sunday School book with Nicolas (Leading Little Ones to the Lord). Pray also for Roxanne as she continues to teach English classes online twice a week.



***Preaching at Redeemed Church with Matt translating***



***Having delicious Thai food at our lunch break during our workshop.***