



# Global Resources

## Equipping Missionaries World Wide



Monthly Newsletter of Ed & Linda Baker - October, 2011

October was a month that saw us in many different directions! We began the month with a visit to the Phillips State Penitentiary for Men. We were asked to talk to the men about living in different countries – what was it like for housing, food, transportation. We had a great group of 100 men; they asked very different questions than we normally have in a church setting. We pray that God may have touched a life or two in that group.



Next we headed to Valdosta, GA, and the First UMC of Valdosta. This is the church where we met, in 1967, in senior high Sunday school class. It is also where we were married in 1969. It's always fun to go back and visit with high school friends whom we have still remained in contact. But, WOW, has Valdosta changed! Here we are talking with Pastor Bob Moon. The wonderful lady in front of us is a member of our "90+ Club". We snail mail our newsletters to this group each month – no Internet for them!

We returned from Valdosta to get ready for a trip to Chiang Mai, Thailand. This was our first visit to Asia. The Mission Society had our biannual regional meeting, which included missionaries from Asia/Europe/Africa. There were 100 attendees, including missionaries, missionary kids (MKs), volunteers and staff. We had a week of wonderful learning, training, worship, and most of all good fellowship. Thailand is less than 1% Christian, which meant a very different environment for us. Here is a statue that was in front of our hotel. Statues and shrines were everywhere. We can't share any photos of the meeting since many of our missionaries are serving in closed countries. Please pray for their safety as they continue to serve God – He knows their names!



One afternoon we went as a group (it took 2 buses) to visit the area of Chiang Mai. We first stopped at an elephant farm. We then went to a village where women live that put copper rings around their necks. You may have seen photos in *National Geographic* or on the Discovery channel. These women wove beautiful fabrics. It was interesting visiting them in their very primitive village.

Next, we traveled by bamboo raft up a recently swollen river. You may remember that Thailand

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has suffered from severe flooding. We spent only 1 night in Bangkok, during a plane change. We traveled through water about 18" deep, getting to our hotel. The water rose as we were in Chiang Mai, making visiting Bangkok impossible for us. By the time we left Thailand, the domestic airport was closed (it was housing the displaced), and 1 of the runways at the international airport was closed. However, our raft ride was just fun, not dangerous!

At the close of our meeting, we took the opportunity to learn about Thai cooking by attending a Thai

cooking school. It was great fun, but the best part was walking through the local market with our guide! Who knew there are 4 kinds of ginger, and 3 kinds of basil! We're not quite ready to open our own restaurant, but we now have a diploma!



We finished our time in Thailand we a couple of days in Phuket, visiting the famous beaches of Thailand. We had a chance to relax, and reflect on our recent teachings. Phuket is a



wealthier part of Thailand than what we had experienced, but still a reasonable price place to visit. We enjoyed seeing that beach vendors are different in Thailand. This person was carrying a portable grill and fresh corn. A good snack to have on the beach, grilled corn on the cob. We returned to Atlanta spiritually refreshed and ready to continue the ministry God has blessed us with.

We lost a dear friend this month. Fred Vignes went to be with our heavenly Father on October 7<sup>th</sup>. We've been friends for over 35 years. Please pray for his family as they adjust to life without Fred. Also, we continue to covet your prayers as we stay focused on the course God has prepared for us.

*In His Service,  
Ed & Linda Baker*

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