

“SMALL BEGINNINGS!”

SUCCESSFUL GARDENING FOR US IS OFTEN AN ACT OF FAITH! We plant some whizzened root or bulb, and wait in faith to see if the promised offering will appear.

Last June we ordered a plum tree from an on-line nursery. It arrived in October, with a few scraggly bare roots, with instructions to plant immediately. We dutifully obeyed, knowing that a period of cold and



frost was coming. What chance did it have to survive the winter? Be patient, we were told, the roots have to form, and then the upper growth will follow.

Imagine our happy surprise when in mid-March not only did green shoots appear, but the baby tree was covered in blossom, a happy sign of life and fruit!

Similar experiences then followed with purchased dried ‘roots’ of rhubarb plants. After sitting quietly under the soil for several months, vigorous stems and leaves appeared!



Not all our planting has seen success however. Countless daffodil bulbs have been planted, but mostly they produced leaves with no

flowers. Hard to accept!

Could this be a picture of “church planting”? Whether seeking to start new churches in Thailand, or establishing fellowship groups amongst Thai people in the UK, the same pattern seems to apply. After we have done the initial work (praying, surveying, evangelism, discipling, gathering, training etc) we wait patiently for the fruit to emerge. Some groups seem to progress strongly, and continue to grow, others wither and die.

In the UK Thai work we have seen both kinds. In several places where we started groups (in Liverpool, Edgware, Dublin) nothing now remains. About ten of our groups continue strongly, and, with encouragement, continue to reach out with the Gospel to other Thai. The remaining groups are in a ‘touch-and-go’ condition, still dependent on regular visits, with their long-term future

“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow” (1 Cor 3.6f)

uncertain. These would benefit from your prayer to move from infancy to maturity. Amongst these are:

- * **Carlisle**, with 3 regular attenders, meeting online only, with only one member keen. .
- * **Colchester**, with 4 regulars, but seeking to bring in newcomers wherever possible
- * **Canterbury**, with one keen member, and 2 half-hearted ones; being remote, follow-up is difficult.



Colchester – with newcomers!

- * **Oxford**. From an initial group of 4, they are down to 3, with health and other issues.
- * **Sheffield**, with 4 keen regulars, the group has no

one willing to be the coordinator-leader (their previous leader moved to Australia).

Each of these five have potential for growth. But each needs a strong and effective empowering of the Holy Spirit to make it happen! Please pray for this!

Also for prayer

- * Thai Fellowship Weekend, 17-18th April, is in Manchester. Pray many will come, for good Bible ministry, and real encouragement from the Lord.
- * Annual Camp, 24-27 July, is on theme “Growing in Christ”; pray for Rev Daniel Kim bringing God’s word, and for many to book their places this month!
- * A small Thai group in North London has had an initial meeting; pray Thai believers in the area can link up and join this group.
- * The Barrow group has invited many to join it over the years, but none last long; pray for solid growth here.
- * Hannah’s recovery from her two operations is taking a while; pray for this, and her eventual return to work.
- * We are having a week’s caravan holiday at the end of April; pray for good rest and refreshment!

Thanks for praying.

David and Mary

* For our prayer info contact: david.robinson@omfmail.com
Our address: 22, Raglan Rd, Sale, Cheshire M33 4AQ

* Donations to Robinsons’ UK Thai ministry: by cheque or via:
Stewardship, www.stewardship.org.uk (a/c: 20111644)