

CUTTING STONE !

A SET OF LARGE AND HEAVY PAVING STONES were recently delivered to our house. They are needed to replace some crazy paving near our front door.

But how to cut the first slab to size without specialist machinery? The slab material is very hard, being composed of stones and concrete. What to do?



A small groove was chipped along the required line using a hammer and small 'cold chisel'. After one row, nothing happened. A second and third row... still no result!

Finally a heavy cold chisel was hammered into the groove, and a neat cut appeared right along the line! Success at last! Every single hammer blow had contributed to the final result.

In some ways this is a picture of our work amongst the Thai people. Our aim is to see growth in faith in the lives of each one, but we still need much perseverance to see that happen! For example.

The **monthly fellowship meetings** have continued for 16 months on-line, with extra prayer meetings. Even so, pastoral care of members has been limited to encouragement texts and phone calls. And often their attention has drifted to on-line programmes elsewhere.

More input has been needed, and reassurance to members that we are standing with them. Despite



the lockdown restrictions, we have had some outdoor meetings, and even "hybrid" ones.

David recently led a one-hour bible study on zoom from our home in Manchester, with the members all meeting together in one room in Birmingham!

The **London group** has been a particular challenge, where the lack of direct contact, and inability to worship together has meant numbers have dropped. Happily we've recently had the use of a flat in the city centre, and this has boosted morale once again.

In **Colchester** we have faced an uphill haul, with the 3-4 new members there seeming to be unable to meet for fellowship. With encouragement, two of them

"You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised." Hebrews 10. 36

have finally visited each other, and hopefully will form the core of a future fellowship group.

Mini-camps are lining up to take place in 6 locations during early August. With lockdown easing still uncertain, the temptation to abandon Camp for a second year running was before us! With the new plan now in place, members are getting excited at the prospect of meeting up together again.

The **wedding of Muay and Geoff**, could finally take place after the easing of Covid restrictions! Held on 26th June at St Mark's church in Barrow, it was a very special occasion. Over half the 50-strong congregation were Thai friends, both Christians and enquirers. David



had the honour to 'lead in' the bride, and read the lesson. We are trusting the occasion made a lasting impact on all who attended.

Pray that we are given grace and strength to persevere in ministry to Thai people, and see lasting fruit emerge.

Also for prayer

- * The Manchester group has not grown for a while. Pray that Mrs Phet in Burnley may be free to join us.
- * We continue to pray that Piak and Nam will have the support they need to join the OMF UK Thai work.
- * OMFers Mr Rick and Chiang also hope to join the UK team reaching Thai people, but again support seems to be an issue. Pray that God will provide.
- * The Thai committee meets on 17th July to plan the Autumn programme; pray for good progress.
- * We plan to spend a couple of days at the Keswick Convention; pray for spiritual refreshing.
- * Hannah's work situation is difficult, with the language school due to close; pray for God's provision.
- * Paul & Grace are serving with OMF and Platt church, with Isobel & Sally at school; *pray* for each of them.

Thanks as always for your prayers

David and Mary

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

* Donations to our UK Thai ministry: 3 choices:
ourselves directly by post (cheques: D.Robinson),
OMF (UK), state "Robinson UK based Thai work",
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