

Thailand Bible School Report

July – September 2001

Jack & Michiko Coolbaugh, Missionaries

*"... the same commit
thou to faithful men,
who shall be able to
teach others also ..."*
(2Ti 2:2)



Dear Friends of the Thailand Bible School,

This month of September has been an eventful period in the work here in the nation of Thailand. After nearly three years of effort for purposes of providing Bible education for aspiring ministerial candidates, we have graduated the first nine students. These students have completed a standard three-year course of study in slightly over 2.5 years due to the fact that they do not take the three-month summer break that is scheduled in the standard three-year course. Their studies are equivalent to 144 quarter credit hours of course work, and this level of training is more than adequate to provide a strong foundation for their ministerial



vocation. All of these students are preparing for the examination to be given in October by the UPC Board of Thailand for ministerial candidates, and it is my expectation that each will do well. For the examination, each candidate will be required to preach a sermon before the Board for about fifteen minutes on the plan of salvation, and then a short period of personal examination about intent and fitness for the ministry will follow. Each of the students has ministered in the Word more than thirty-five times during the school tenure and are sufficiently competent in this type of ministry. Even so, the school will hold special "practice sessions" this month to prepare them more fully and to help reduce their nervousness during the examinations.

In the above photo of the graduating students, the husband and wife on the front row left side are staying on at the school to become teachers. They are beginning teaching for the first time this month, and they will help each other in teaching one hour per day of fundamental courses, namely Genesis, Exodus, the Plan of God, a summary history of important events throughout the ages, and Acts. They will continue to attend other course classes that I am teaching that they have not yet taken so that they will be able to expand their range of courses to teach over time. Please be in prayer for this couple, as the long-term success of a Bible School in Thailand requires competent Thai teachers.

Also in the above photo, the student second from the right on the back row is staying on to head up the construction of the new school, and subsequently to act as the school administrator and Dean of students. He is the son of the UPC District Superintendent in this area and is a very honest, stable, and mature young man. He has been my "right hand man" in a multitude of issues and tasks throughout the past three years, and construction and operation of this new school is possible to a large extent because of him. His wife is acting as bookkeeper for the construction costs, and will be acting as the school secretary and oversee the food preparation after the school is completed. At some point in the future should we allow single women to attend as students, she will also need to take on the role of "house mother" for the young ladies.

Another exciting event is the initiation this month of construction on the buildings for the new Bible school. The drawing below on the left is the artist's concept of the planned school with each of the buildings labeled. The photo on the right shows the current construction on the first of the five buildings, which is one of the student housing buildings. We hope to have the construction completed by June 2002 with capacity for up to 32 students plus staff. Please keep this construction and future operation of the school in your prayers.

