

# Started Strong, Endure Long and Finish Well.

Greeting to all our prayers partners, financial supporters in God's Mission.

To serve in Lord's Field, God's Vineyard is such a greater joy, but it comes with a cost and a greater price to pay.

Apostle Paul encountered Jesus and experience this greater unending joy in serving in His vineyard. He was tasked to proclaim the gospel. He was not ashamed nor being afraid of proclaiming Jesus Christ whom he formerly persecuted. He STARTED STRONG starting at Damascus.

He never gave up, but he ENDURED LONG in the mighty storms of persistent persecution and health complication and he FINISHED WELL. The same Task remains unfinished today and the challenge to us is real in this world.

Nancy and I have shared and reflected on God's calling on us, our ministry life and family and our future. We are kept on being reminded and encouraged from God's Word and from faithful missionary friends that we have started strong and we can and able to endure long through this painful and challenging situation we are now facing with Nancy's health condition.

We want to encourage each one of you, our partners in God's Mission that we will not give up. but to endure and continue to serve in God's Mission until we reach the mark that is set before us. We want to finish well.



Picture of Nancy taken at the ICU after one day of her third brain surgery (cranioplasty) at Nakornping hospital.

# Nancy's Medical Updates.

Dr. Nuttawoot, the owner of Nopburi nursing home of Nancy. He works as a specialist neurosurgeon at Nakornping hospital. Two week earlier I spoke with him to go ahead and schedule Nancy's third and final brain surgery. He arranged and took Nancy in for preliminary checks.

On Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2022, we admitted Nancy at Nakornping for surgery.

On Thursday at around midday, Nancy was taken to the operating theatre. Nimbine and I went to the hospital around the same time and Dr. Nuttawoot came and met us and gave me all the documents for me to sign and submit at the operating theatre counter.



Dr. Nuttawoot doing his weekly health check on Nancy

Nimbine and I waited till 5:15PM and Nancy's third brain surgery (cranioplasty) was done and moved out from the operating theatre to the Neurosurgical Ward (ICU).

Operation went well. At the ICU nurse reported after half an hour that Nancy was awake and able to eat little food at that moment.

I was told that if she has no health complications, she will remain in ICU for less than a week and can be discharged to the nursing home.

On Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> of March, Dr. Nuttawoot confirmed that Nancy's health is well and can be transferred back to Nursing Home on Monday.

On Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> of March, Nimbine and I went and settled medical bills for Nancy's final brain surgery and collected her medicines and visited her at the nursing home.



Caption of the wound after cranioplasty. All the three surgeries were done on the same spot.

After a week, on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of April, I received a call from Nursing home informing me that Nancy has been tested positive with Covid-19. She was then isolated for the next 14 days.

Earlier on Sunday, Nimbine and I visited Nancy as usual after Church to have devotion and pray with her. She looked weak on that day and I thought it must be due to her surgery. Nimbine would hug and briefly give a goodbye kiss to her mom, which she did that day.

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of April, Nimbine and I were not feeling well. Nimbine had fever and I had headache and dry cough. I was worried about what would happen if both of us are infected with Covid-19. We quickly

rushed to the shop, bought enough food to isolate ourselves, five bottles of oral suspensions for Nimbine and some medicines for myself, and bought enough covid-19 test kits for the next 14 days.

For two week we all were down. Nancy was isolated and was taken care by the nursing home and I only did video call from time to time to check how she was doing. Nimbine and I locked ourselves in the house, resting and taking medicine. Every day we did covid-19 tests for seven days and all the tests returned negative.

After 14 days of isolation and treatments, Nancy was cleared for visits. At the same time Nimbine and I were recovered and were able to visit Nancy as usual.

Nancy did not do any rehabilitation in the month of April due to surgery and isolation from Covid-19, which slowed down her recovery processes.



Loving and caring staff from Nopburi Nursing home fare welling Nancy to her new nursing home after two and a half months of taking care of Nancy, 14th May, 2022.

# Relocating Nancy to a New Nursing Home

Nimbine and I usually drive 20-30 minutes to visit Nancy at Nopburi nursing home daily. Since Nimbine is returning to school this month, I decided to move Nancy to a nearby nursing so that we could continue to visit Nancy together after school.

Thankfully, I found a nursing home, which is 5 minute drive from home.

On Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> of May at 4:00PM, staff of Nopburi nursing helped and transferred to Imboon nursing home.

There are two staff helping Nancy doing light exercises every day at Imboon nursing home. These staff are not specialists. Since Nancy is needing specific and proper therapy, so I engaged a therapist to come and do therapy to Nancy once a week so the staff are observing follow what the therapist is doing and can apply on Nancy on her daily exercise routine.

To keep Nancy at the nursing home for an extended period of time and to engage her in an intensive physiotherapy entirely depends on financial donations we receive.



Nancy's Theraphist doing theraphy on Nancy. Her name is Neung and she is the same Theraphist that work with Nancy at Nopburi nursing home. We engaged her to continue at the current nursing home, Imboon.

## **Financial Report**

Our family's monthly income ranges from THB10,000 to THB20,000. This includes allowance from the office of The Bible League Thailand and from Individual mission partners. This amount is enough for three of us to put food on the table, pay for house bill, for fuel and other basic needs.

But with additional costs from Nancy's medical condition, we entirely depend on donations over the past seven months and we continue to depend on donations to keep Nancy at the nursing home and to engage specialist physiotherapists.

We are paying THB27,000 monthly for Imboon nursing home and THB700 every Thursday for an hours of Physiotherapy session.

### Total remaining balance as of Nancy's Medical Donation as of 26th Feb 2022 was THB85, 442.66

Spending from 27<sup>th</sup> of Feb to 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2022

- 1. Fuel and Nancy's Personal needs THB12,000
- 2. Nancy's Third Brain Surgery (Cranioplasty) at Nakornping Hospital THB53,855
- 3. Nancy's Medical Bill at Nopburi Elderly Care (Nursing Home) from Feb to 14<sup>th</sup> May THB104,000
- 4. Nancy's Medical Bill at Imboon Elderly Care (Nursing Home) for 14<sup>th</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> June THB27,000

### Total spending from 26th of Feb to 14th of May is THB196,855.

Donations received from 26<sup>th</sup> of Feb to 14<sup>th</sup> of May

- 1. Total donations received through bank transfer from individual friends, organisation and missions partners, and from online fundraising drive is **THB189,759.87**
- Total cash donations received from missionary friends and family friends living in Chiang Mai is <u>THB20,000</u>

Total donations from 26<sup>th</sup> of Feb to 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 is THB209,759.87.

### Recurring balance of Nancy's Medical donation from 26th of Feb 2022 is THB85,442.66

Total Remaining balance of Nancy's Medical Donation as of  $14^{th}$  May 2022 is, (THB209,759.87 + THB85,442.66) - THB196,855 = THB98,347.53.

As of 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022, Nancy has total remaining balance of <u>THB98,347.53</u> from donations received. This amount will be spent on Nancy's nursing home bills, her personal needs, Medicines, therapy programs, and other related needs.

## **Our Prayer Needs**

#### 1. Pray for Nancy's Recovery and Health and Strength.

We continue to raise our praises and thanks giving to God for his marvelous healing upon Nancy's health so far. She is able to eat well. She listens and understands well. She shows some signs of remembering. She is able to read few lines mixing up words. Her right leg shows movement but still remains weak so we do walking exercise with her daily. Her right arm show no sign of movement still. Her voice is low. She speaks but unable to make complete sentences. She still cannot sit up from bed by herself. Nancy's overall health is good and staff at the nursing home are monitoring her sugar level and her blood pressure.

### 2. Pray for Nimbine's Schooling.

Young Nimbine started going to school on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. She scored 99% in her final exam and came first in her class of 20 students. This year she is promoted to Kindergarten two. Pray that she can pick up Thai language fast and begin to relate and interact well with her teacher and her peers well in class and at School. It's a local Thai school and both teachers and students don't speak much English during learning hours. This academic year, the principal has announced full scholarship for Nimbine granted by the school administration.

#### 3. Pray for Our Housing Need.

On Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> of May, the Chairman of Berea Bible Institute wrote and informed me that their foundation board members has allowed us to stay till end of December 2022. That means three of us need to find a new house to stay before end of December this year. Monthly house rent here in Chiang Mai ranges from THB3,000 – THB10,000. Our budget would fit for a house below THB10,000 per month.

#### 4. Pray for Our Ministry.

Nancy's situation is not and cannot stop us from serving in God's Mission. We are both assured of God's calling upon our lives.

Three months ago, while Nancy was at the nursing home, I was invited by one of our Indian missionary family friends in Chiang Mai to start an English Worship Center, which Nimbine and I attend every Sundays, where I assist in leading and preaching at the Church.



Nimbine in her school uniform getting ready to go to school, K1, 2021.



I teach English using Bible to Barami every Mondays and Wednesday. We learn vocabs and do reading and comprehension. Barami is preparing to do Masters in Divinity under the sponsorship of The Bible League Thailand.

We baptized our first convert, a Japanese widow. Her name is Masako. Praise the Lord! Pray for Masako as she continues to be disciple by the Church members. She is eager to minister to her other Japanese friends and to testify and share about her new life and experiences in the Lord.



Ms. Masako with the flower was the first convert at our English Church. We stand together after her baptism.

On week days, I go to Bible League office on Mondays and Wednesdays to teach English to Bible League staff.



First Sunday of Our English Church, Standing in front of the Worship Centre after the service.

I distribute Bible-based literacy materials to BBL volunteers throughout Thailand when they organize new BBL groups (classes). I conduct BBL teacher training online when identifying interested individuals willing to use and teach BBL. To training is easy, but to identify someone from local Thai churches to train to teach English using Bible is not an easy task. We have trained many foreign missionaries but very few have started conducting BBL classes.



Before Nancy admitted for her third brain surgery, brother Eisen and Madam Bliss visit her and offered a special prayer. Bliss and Eisen are very close to us in their prayers, encouragements and support. We started an English church together recently.

Our interview with SIM Australia is pending due to Nancy's situation. However, SIM Australia missionaries and missions partners continue to send their prayers, encouragements and financial donations throughout past seven months. Pray that we will begin our interview with SIM and continue to serve under SIM in our future ministries.

### 5. Pray for Our Financial Needs.

Our financial needs includes, Nancy's medical and rehabilitation costs, long term costs of Nimbine's education and need for a house.



Paul conducting online Bible-based Literacy Teacher Training, Thailand.

"The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart exults, and with my songs I give thanks to Him." (Ps 28:7).

Our Sincere appreciation and heartfelt thankfulness to each and every one of you for not giving up on us, but have journeyed with three of us in these past seven months and counting. We are not giving up yet and we cannot.

We have started well. In this new heights of challenges and painfulness of life, we will endure long in the grace of God in the ministry that the LORD has called us. And looking forward toward that day to finish well, reaching the mark that has set before us.

Thank you and God bless!

With lots of love and many greetings from Nimbine, Nancy and Paul.



Fun time together in Nancy's room at Imboon nursing home.

### Write to us here

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