

NightLight

February, 2009



This year seems to have begun with bad news from around the globe. It can be really discouraging. However, there is more to the story than we read in the news. God is moving in powerful and amazing ways to redeem. As you read below of the amazing events, please know that your prayers and support make these possible and we are so grateful to God for your partnership.

An Intense Beginning

The very first day NightLight opened in 2009, my work began

with a desperate phone call at 1 am from one of women who was threatening to run away. Around 1 pm she showed up barefoot, armed with a fork and piece of glass ready to do damage. It took several of us restraining her and several hours to get her calmed down and stable. Later in the week in a very intense deliverance session, God delivered her from some demonic strongholds, including one that spoke out it was there to take her life.

Every day of that first week, women came to the prayer room seeking healing and deliverance. Some of the women have had to go through so many deliverance sessions expelling more demons than we could count. Their perseverance through these struggles is amazing. They are often tormented and put through humiliating states by the demons that manifest. The more we encounter and battle the many demons that have kept them in bondage and then see them set free, the more I understand why these women worship Christ with such passion and gratitude. God lavishes His grace on them and reveals his love to them in such personal and intimate ways. These women understand the power of the blood of Christ and what it means to be set free!

The first week was already intense and full of God's Spirit at work. Outreach on the first Friday night would be no different.

Chaos in the Bar

"What the *** do you think this country is here for!"

The large buff man was leaning over the seat in the bar yelling at my team mate. I had seen him come into the bar with his buddies. They had immediately begun to fondle the women and treat them like sex dolls. I tried to ignore them even when they threw some comments my way. One of them sat next to my team mate and made a rude remark. She told him his behavior was disgusting and got up to move back away from him. He immediately went into a rage and began to cuss and yell. "How else do you think the buffalos get paid for. . ." We were trying to avoid confrontation but he was demanding it. He then bought a basket of ping pong balls used to throw at the women on the bar and threw them back at us. Chaos had erupted and it felt like everything was out of control. All I could do was point and say, "In the name of Jesus. . ." repeatedly but I didn't know what more to say after that. It was a desperate plea for intervention.



Two large ladyboys in suits headed toward us - management! Oh no, I thought, we are going to be kicked out of the bar. I was ready to leave but not like that. The larger of the two in a bright yellow jacket approached me and stunned me by introducing himself as the head manager of the bar and apologizing. I was speechless for a second and then I told him how the man had insulted Thailand. I asked him to protect the women of his bar and not allow them to go with these men as they were demeaning and possibly dangerous. He thanked me and said, "These men who treat women like these . . . all of them at least have a mother and that should cause them to treat women better."

The man at this point, having made a huge scene in the bar and seeing that we were receiving the sympathy, began to feel some guilt. He tried to throw a large sum of money at the team mate. She kept throwing it back and he would yell, "Its not dirty money!!" The manager said, "Don't take his money! Everything is not about money. There are more important things in life than money." Again, I was stunned. . .this was the head manager of this go-go bar.

I decided to take another risk and I reached into my bag and pulled out a Christian booklet and handed it to him. He immediately began to read it while standing at my table. I asked him, "Do you like to read?" He answered me, "I really like these. Christians have handed these out to me and whenever I feel depressed or weary I read these and I feel better." He then asked me where I went to church and if he could come. "When I was a kid," he told me, "I went to a Christian school. I don't like this job. I know its not

good and I want to change." I asked him if I could pray with him.

Right there in a dark bar, with girls dancing on the stage, a foreign man trying to make penance for his bad behavior, and loud music blaring, I held the hands of this ladyboy, the top manager. I looked him in the eyes and I prayed for him and for the destiny that God has prepared for him. He was touched and he thanked me. I paid my bill and walked out hugging the women who were with the rude customers on my way out. When we got out the door I began to jump up and down. "Yeah God!!" Wow! What had started out as chaotic and evil, God had turned around to reveal himself to the manager and for his glory. Awesome! This is going to be an amazing year, I thought.

Struck Down but Not Defeated!

After such an intense beginning to the year, I was excited to see what God would do next. I had a conference to attend in Manilla but my mind was still processing all the excitement of that first week. I flew to the Philippines on the 11th and first thing on the morning of the 12th I, slipped and broke my kneecap. After some prayer and visits to the emergency room, I decided to stay and do the talk I felt God had sent me to do the night of the 15th. Everyone in Manilla was so gracious and helpful. I was at peace through it all and really sensed God carrying me. I flew back to Bangkok and had surgery on it the 17th. My 15 year old son had also injured his knee and had surgery two days later. This was NOT God's way of slowing me down but God has used it for His glory and has taught me a lot of valuable insights about people with disabilities, learning what it means to be totally dependant on others, and the strength of God when we press through against odds to do what God has sent us to do.

One of God's sweetest gifts was when one of the women from the bars visited me in the hospital. The head manager whom I had prayed with let me know that he wanted to visit me and although it didn't work out, it meant a lot to me. A week later, I was able to go on outreach again. It was wonderful to see the women again and even though I was on crutches, God was not in any way disabled and if anything God's love for the women was even more evident.

Pressing On for The Victory

In the headlines of this new year there is a lot of bad news. Economic crisis, wars, revolts, poverty . . . chaos. Its no different here in Thailand. However, God is still on his throne and no matter what the situation is, God can turn it around for good and for glory. Is anything too difficult for God? No, God is always within a prayer's reach even before it leaves our lips. Hold on tight! Its going to be a wild ride, difficult, costly, but let's press through against all odds for the victory that is ours in Christ!

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NightLight