

Coats News | June 2017

Scott & Tan Coats

How it has been almost six months since our last newsletter, is hard to believe! I am sure you are not surprised, since I am terrible at writing, but I really thought I had more discipline than that. It doesn't seem fair to summarize all that has happened, but maybe we can give some highlights.

But before we get into ministry highlights, I must show this great picture. Two weeks ago, on a short road trip from Chiang Rai to Chiang Mai, Tan and I saw this scene:



A woman riding halfway in and halfway out of the back of an open-bed pickup truck, cleverly avoiding a new rule set in Thailand.

This woman was getting a short ride in the back of someone's pickup truck, which we wouldn't normally think is strange. But it is kind of funny for our situation in Thailand because our military government recently announced that for safety reasons no one can ride in the back of an open-bed pickup truck. It's caused quite a bit of an uproar as it is the main form of transportation for many rural folks. Well, it appears this woman has come up with a solution. She and her baby are riding OUTSIDE the back of an open bed pick-up. So, she's not breaking the newly announced rules.

Ministry Highlights:

- **New Center for Youth of Kentung:**

A new youth center has been opened in Kengtung City where Tan and I have been encouraging a group of young people as they seek ways to respond to the needs of youth in the city. It's entirely initiated by the young people themselves. And the authorities are not only allowing them to do it, but are saying that possibly next year, they will provide financial support to keep it open! The youth of Kentung now have a safe place to come and hang out and enjoy their friends, play sports and games and just have healthy fun.

- **Bala House (Coffee Shop & Restaurant):**
The Bala Foundation, run by our friend Misaw Chermer, has opened the Bala House. The Bala House is a coffee shop and restaurant, and acts as a social enterprise to complement the Bala Foundation's efforts to be a link between the various anti-trafficking efforts in the Chiang Rai area.



Bala House, a coffee shop and restaurant helping to link anti-trafficking efforts around Chiang Rai.

- **Church Visits:**
Tan and I were able to visit a number of our supporting churches and friends in the US between Mid April and Mid May. We apologize for those of you we were not able to see. I had hoped to call and chat with some of you whom we couldn't get out to see, but still missed talking to a lot of you.

Family Highlight:

We were gratefully able to attend the graduation of our daughter, Alisa, from Abilene Christian University. We are so amazed how she's grown into a responsible, mature woman of Faith. The Lord has really blessed us with three wonderful kids. [No bias there, of course.] Alisa is hoping to work in the Dallas, Texas area for the next couple of years. Silas and Sam will continue their university studies. They are doing well, too. It was wonderful to be with all three of our children for a couple weeks before we headed back to Thailand in late May.



Scott, Alisa, Tan, Sam, and Silas.

There's so much more to talk about, but I am afraid this will get too long. Please **email us** at scottct2013@gmail.com if you want to get a longer, more detailed version of this letter. If you want to see some more pictures, you can find some on **our Facebook page**: [Aphiwan Scott Coats](#).

Thanks Again and Blessings,
Scott and Tan Coats