

Testimony with Thai/Lao Cultural Emphasis

Hello, my name is Toby. I was born in the USA in the state of Texas. My wife and I have 2 grown children. Our son is 34 years old and lives in New York City. Our daughter is 33 and lives in the state of Tennessee. I am a retired eye doctor. My wife and I like to visit and study other countries and their cultures, so we have come to visit Thailand.

I have had many special events in my life, such as my marriage, the birth of my children, and my work, and I have enjoyed good friends and a family that loves me very much. But the most important event in my life came when I was 13 years old – when I discovered the love of God. Please let me tell you about it!

I have always tried to be honest and do good things, even though there have been many times when I was tempted to do something wrong. Most of the time I could control those evil desires and avoid doing bad things, like stealing and lying. But the desires always returned.

One day a Bible teacher told me about the only true living God. He gave me a copy of the Holy Bible. It is the oldest and holiest book in all the world. It has 66 books together in one book and tells true stories, starting with the beginning of time, the creation of heaven and earth, and the first people on earth. It tells how God created everyone and everything and that He loves everyone and wants everyone to live in His love – now and always in a place called Heaven. From the true stories in the Bible I learned about God's plan for everyone on earth to receive His love and peace and have everlasting joy in Him. But our evil desires cause us to do bad things, so He also has a plan to forgive us of these bad things (called sins). Here are some verses that I read in the Bible:

“Everyone has sinned and has fallen short of the Glory of God.” Romans 3:23

“God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but will have everlasting life.” John 3:16

“God made Him (His Son Jesus Christ) who had no sin to be the sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

“God demonstrates His love for us like this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Jesus, God's perfect Son, died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.” Romans 5:8

“He (Jesus Christ) was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.” Romans 4:25

“If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

“It is by grace that you have been saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

After learning these things, I prayed to ask God to forgive me of my sins. I trusted in God's gift of His Son Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice for sin. Now I have peace in this life because I know the promise of

Philippians 4:6-8 is true, "Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your request be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Another of my favorite Bible verses is John 16:33, "Jesus said, I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world, but be courageous! I have conquered the world."

Now I am a follower of the teachings of God and His Son Jesus, and I have the presence of His Holy Spirit living in me. For many years now I have found several things that help me to grow in this faith: 1) Prayer (talking and listening to God regularly); 2) Reading God's Holy Word (the Bible); 3) Meeting and worshipping God with other believers (in churches or small groups); and 4) Sharing this Good News about God's love and peace with others.

You can know God's love and peace also – by praying to Him according to the scriptures you have read in this testimony and by reading the Bible for yourself or by asking someone who already knows God to help you understand.