



harvest



A Wholistic Approach

For several years we have taught the wholistic message at a particular seminary in a nearby country. The director shared some of his insights they have learned as they have put the principles into practice. The following is a synopsis of what he articulated at one of our seminars for Bible School and Seminarian directors and professors earlier this year.

“How do Buddhists view Christianity?”

1. “Christianity is seen as a colonial religion. Christians continue to be under colonial rule.
2. “Christianity is seen as an inferior religion. (Pride is entrenched in the minds of the Buddhists.)
3. “Christianity is a western religion. Buddhism has been around for centuries and is truly Asian. The Christians have come to persuade us to change.
4. “Christianity is a selfish religion. They are not content with who are already Christians but wish to pull other people in as well. A historical quote by William Carey, an early British missionary to India, “*This country (My..) must be captured in order to bring in Christianity.*” This is considered a very aggressive comment to the authorities.
5. “Christianity is a confused religion. This is a common response when the Buddhist see that there are many denominations, sects, churches, etc. among the Christians. “These are just a few of the many roadblocks set up before us. We need to think carefully about how we are to approach the Buddhists. The more we practice Luke 2:52, the Buddhists slowly learn to taste that God is good. In our seminary, we did not receive feedback immediately when we began to demonstrate simple acts of love, but as time went on the



people in the community began to feel they should also participate. This helped to form a relationship between us and the people. Our neighbors now see Christians as good people and citizens.

“What have we done?”

“We asked the local authorities what we could do in the community. Some of the activities we have done are:

1. “Fix roads (*This means they literally paved many streets with concrete. The community bought the material and the seminary supplied the manpower. This is a real plus for the neighborhood especially during rainy season, now they can travel easier on their streets and there is less dirt and dust.*)
2. “Cleaned houses for those who are unable
3. “Gave alms to help the poor and needy such as rice and clothes
4. “Helped the block leaders
5. “Helped in the general election (last November 2010) placing students at the polling stations
6. “The block leaders have come to depend on us.

“The fruit of wholistic ministry has been that we now have a close relationship with the community. Many roads have been repaired, paved, cleared off and with drainage outlets. The Buddhists have received the Gospel message.

“Last year, we had a problem when several of our children were infected with H1N1 and we were quarantined for 15 days. For the first few days we were questioned with much criticism. The

community defended us by telling the authorities that we are good people. Altogether, forty-five authorities came and visited us. In the end, they admired us and brought things for the children like videos. The Chief Commander, the Women’s Society and the Nursing Home gave us donations. The block leaders lent cooking utensils, tarps, chairs, etc., and decorated a Church banner. Ten officers came to our Christmas meeting and brought gifts for the children. This experience gave us more access to the people and to pray more openly. We are received at hospitals. We are not tired of doing good.

“Plan and focus for 2011:

1. “Children’s ministry. We pray this will win the parents for Christ. We will use song and dance.
2. “Seekers Conference. We will call on the parents and offer food, dances, etc.
3. “Tuition classes in the block leader’s office

“Plan for the seminary 2011:

1. “Cross-cultural studies. We don’t know the Buddhist culture well enough to know how to talk effectively to them.
2. “Contextualization. We must be careful with this because there are examples in India where this actually brought Hinduism into the church.
3. “Worldview (Buddhist). Our way of talking is “rough” to the Buddhists. They think tribal people do not have a proper culture. They think we have a borrowed culture from the West. We consider ministry to be culturally important.”



Bible School Students



The newest member of the family

This particular seminarian director pastors a church and directs not only a seminary but a children's home as well. Much of the proceeds from the sale of jewelry that Susie brings to the States has been for this children's home. If you desire to send a donation to the home, you may send it through us specifying that it for the DTE Home. This is an older photo from 2 years ago. They now have 64 children.



Community Volunteer Program

One of the direct results from a networking conference we held in Pattaya two years ago is the *Community Volunteer Program* here in Bangkok. After recent flooding in southern Thailand the group mobilized fund raising to bring immediate relief to an affected community. (Pictures to the left.)

With all of our love and appreciation!

Robin and Susie Steen

[You can click here](#) to make donations for us directly on the Harvest website or you can send a check directly to the following address.

Harvest (office address)
P.O. Box 2670
Phoenix AZ 85002-2670

[Click here to see personal and ministry pictures.](#)

For personal correspondence:

rssteen@gmail.com
sasteen@gmail.com

Red Rose Court, B2
110/6 Pradipat Road
Phayathai, Bangkok 10400, Thailand

Prayer Points:

- Pray for the DTE home for children.
- Pray for the MIMR Bible School
- We need to develop a seminary curriculum for Myanmar for wholistic ministry.
- Pray for us as we seek to develop a system to disciple many pastors in small cohorts throughout the country in an ongoing fashion.
- This month and next we will hold two Vision Conferences here in Thailand. One in Bangkok and the other in Chiangmai.