

February 2017

THAI

LIGHTS

Allan and Joan arrive in Thailand, August 1961

Thanksgiving and Celebration for the Talako Mission and the Dedication of the Laytongku Church: A 58-year mission

Allan first felt called to the Talako Karen in Jun 1958 when he was selected to be a missionary for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). They were sent to Thailand to work with the united church, The Church of Christ in Thailand.



Left: Nov. 1962, First visit after 2 days by boat and 12 days by elephant. **Right:** Allan (center) meets Talako Elders. They accepted us as “long lost white brothers”, but expected us to bring political power and economic prosperity. We were only bringing Jesus.



Left: After 4 visits, the Communists came in and held the area many years. We were only able to return in 1988. On May 4, 1990, the Talako asked us to drink the water of covenant to always build up and never betray each other. **Right:** Joan went too in Feb. 1992. David, Laurie and their children came as well, to honor the covenant.



Left: The first baptisms only happened in 2008. Before each baptism, the house and land were cleansed from spirits and they burned their spirit items. Note Bible in the father’s hands. Now there are 100 members. **Right:** Jan. 22 2017, people gathered at 7 AM to begin the church dedication. The church is by the main road and overlooks the village and hills in Myanmar.



Left: Allan and Joan cut the ribbon and turn the key to open the doors. **Right:** The worship begins.



Left: Installing the Church Pastor and Elders. **Right:** The area Karen Christian leaders and mission leaders after the service. Allan is wearing the same shirt the Talako gave him 54 years earlier.



Left: Laurie brought a pastoral care, medical, and English training team from her church, Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church, Gig Harbor, Washington. **Right:** Six baptisms after the service, then dinner. Saturday and Sunday night, more than a thousand people came to celebrate. A Karen Christian evangelism band came from Yangon, Myanmar.

When we first came to this area in 1962 there were no Christians on the Thai side of the border as far as we knew. Now there are at least 13 churches, and we shared in planting 8 of these. We want to thank all of you who helped and prayed for us these many years. Missionaries from Baptist, Christian, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, and nondenominational churches worked together to make this happen. Thank God that we could live long enough to celebrate together this success and the dreams of what God has for the future here.