

March 4, 2026

Dear Friends,

In January we enjoyed some cooler weather in Chiang Mai as the winter flit past us. The night temperatures dipped into the upper 50s a few times. For most of our readers, that sounds downright balmy but that is as cold as it gets in Chiang Mai. It's normally getting pretty smoky by this month, but thank God the smoke has been delayed about a month this year. The class we taught in UAE in November is now finished and graded. It was encouraging to read how the students planned to share what they had learned with those they serve. They created curriculum for teens about why we should trust the Scriptures, on Scripture for young adults (aged 25-40) who come from Catholic and Muslim backgrounds, for couples on how to study the Scriptures at home, and Sunday School lessons for 7-12 year-olds on the character of God. The last one was especially well put together - if you're church is looking for curriculum along those lines - I can probably convince the student to share it.

Now Tim is grading an introductory course in which students get to figure out BrightSpace – our online learning platform. As students submit their work, Tim gives them feedback on how they might improve their assignments or encourages them on a job well done. It's an important first step for all of our students. They learn how to interact with their peers in a discussion forum, how to track and meet deadlines, key theological terms and concepts they will encounter in future courses, and how to properly summarize and document sources for research papers.

This intro course is also an excellent context in which to help them see the value and pitfalls of various AI aids. Tim recently advised a student who was worried about his English skills. We want to see his own thinking far more than we want to see AI polished English that hides his own thinking.

Cai had the opportunity to attend a camp for MKs in southern Thailand. There were MKs from throughout Asia. He has gone before and enjoys spending time with teens with whom he has so much in common. It's also a welcome break from school!



We received a welcome email from a student who included construction pictures of his latest church building. This is a unique project because the student and pastor of this church is also an artist/painter. He has gathered a group of fellow Christian artists to use their skills to produce artwork that they sell to fund the construction.



One of the church's first meetings in their partially completed building

Coming up in April, Tim will begin teaching a course he has taught many times, but this time it will be online and filled with students from all over Asia. He is working on designing it to be engaging and evenly paced as he pushes the students through several weeks of reading and quizzes. Then in the middle, the students will be forming “doctrinal committees” in which they will attempt to formulate their agreed upon beliefs about the characteristics of Scripture. After that, they will work through the character of God, with a similar task at the end of that journey. It’s a change from more individual projects and we look forward to seeing how well the students perform. Please pray for Tim as he learns more of the intricacies of BrightSpace from the professor's side. We occasionally joke with the students that ABTS selected BrightSpace to build Christian character in both professors and students.

The conflict in Iran has affected ABTS. Our dean and his father are still in the UAE. Jim had just finished his class in the UAE when the skies lit up and the airports closed. He and his father are stuck in Abu Dhabi until the skies and airports reopen.

Tim received the email below from one of our students in the UAE.

***“Hello Professor Tim,
Blessings in Christ!***

We are doing well. There have been drone strikes and ballistic missiles over

the skies in the past 3 days. Here in Abu Dhabi city, they were successfully intercepted but there is a lot of falling debris. Just yesterday at 1PM, debris fell in front of my house. Thankfully, no casualties were reported and my house is safe.

I am also assisting Professor Jim and his father and looking over their welfare. They are staying in a hotel near my residence, and I am closely monitoring the situation in case they need to evacuate.

Thank you for keeping in touch. We really appreciate prayers from everyone. BTW, I already submitted my project proposal in BrightSpace.”

Glad to know falling rocket debris does not stop our students from submitting their homework.

See photos below from our latest graduation.

Thank you for making ABTS and the education we provide possible for so many students who are serving their churches throughout Asia.

Tim, Charlene, and Cai



ABTS celebrated a graduation in Bangkok a few weeks ago with 14 graduates. It's always a pleasure to share in the students' joy but also in the pride their families bring to these events.



Families celebrating with their graduates



A pastor and his wife graduated together



One of our graduates traveled from Bangladesh. He had attempted to attend an ABTS graduation in two other countries but was denied a visa - until this one!