



THAI LIGHTS

CELEBRATING PAW BOONCHUAY BUARAWONG'S LIFE (1935-2020)

On May 29, 2020, Paw Boonchuay Buarawong passed away after a long struggle with cancer. In 1975 he inspired and enabled us to begin using Thai Folk Drama (Likay) to communicate the Gospel in ways that are easily understood in Thai culture. He spent the last 45 years serving Jesus Christ, producing biblical music and directing Dramas that have been performed all over Thailand and in many different countries in Asia, Australia, the Middle East, North America, and Europe. In this newsletter, we want to thank God for his life and service.

Friends and family gathered for 3 days at his home church, to honor him and the fruit of his life. On the final day, CCI, which grew out of the Likay he helped start, performed a dance (left) and an excerpt from the very first drama we produced; The Prodigal Daughter (right).



Dance based on Psalm 150.



Drama of the Return of the Prodigal Daughter.

We first met the Burarawong family when Allan happened upon an automobile accident where he picked up Paw Boonchuay's daughter, Kajorn, from the side of the road. A piece of glass had pierced her eye. In the process of helping her, we led her to Jesus and she entered seminary at Payap. It was the first year that the university opened. Through her we met her father, Boonchuay, and mother, Khamsook, who were professional likay performers. We invited them to start teaching our Payap students and later professional performers how to do this difficult art: using music, poetry, dance and drama. Later, their youngest daughter, Somkit, became our leading lady for more than 20 years. Kajorn went on to teach Hebrew and Greek at a seminary in Bangkok until she retired.



From left to right:
Somkit, Paw Boonchuay and Kajorn.



We baptized the whole Buarawang family of 6.
Here pictured is Paw Boonchuay's baptism in 1984.



Somkit and Rattakom performing 'The Prodigal Daughter'.



President Reagan sent certificate and letter after our White House performance



Book by Allan Eubank about using Likay in evangelism

Even after Paw Boonchuay retired 25 years ago, he continued to produce original Christian poetry, songs and stories in a variety of Northern Thai cultural styles. He produced something new almost every month and traveled to churches singing his compositions. His work has been distributed to many churches across Thailand, through books and CD's as well. We have written more about his amazing work in the book "Dance-Drama Before the Throne". It can be found at www.thaichristianfoundation.org



Paw Boonchuay leading CCI classical Thai music orchestra



Some of Paw Boonchuay's many works



Every year, CCI performs weeks of evangelism in about 25 Christian Schools. They use a mix of traditional drama, original modern dramas, songs and testimony. In many schools, they perform 6 times a day to reach all the students. 3000-4000 students come forward every year to receive Christ. Everywhere we travel, we meet people that have come to know Jesus Christ through the work of CCI.

NOTICE: The world is moving online, and we find that most of our supporters are online as well. Because of this, we are in the process of reviewing our mailing list. Going forward, we will send hard copies to those that request it specifically. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the Thai Lights Newsletter **please let us know** at info@thaichristianfoundation.org or by phone at +1 (972) 861-2859.

Allan and Joan Eubank
Box 14 Mae Jo
Chiang Mai 50290
Thailand
Phone: 66-84-809-4067
eubank.aj@gmail.com

Allan & Joan
thaichristianfoundation.org

Tax deductible gifts may be sent through:
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Thai Christian Foundation
DEPT. D8150
P.O. BOX 650002
DALLAS, TX 75265-8150