

GIVING A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Giving your personal testimony is a very effective way to communicate to others what Christ has done for you and can do for them. 1 Peter 3:15 says, *“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”*

Remember that Thailand is a Buddhist country and many of our concepts concerning God are very difficult for them to grasp and understand, especially Christian cliches and “slangs”. When sharing your testimony, keep it simple and to the point. When explaining the Gospel, we have found it best to start from the very beginning of creation, explaining that there is a “Creator” God and His purpose for creating the universe and man is to have relationship with man. This is very relationally oriented and understand the concept of “relationships”. This is key when sharing your testimony. Always keep in mind that most Thai people have no Christian background whatsoever.

Assignment: Prepare your basic testimony to be 2-3 minutes which will end up being 5 minutes with translation.

Here are some items you should include in your testimony while in Thailand:

1. Begin with a greeting but always use as much spoken Thai and Thai culture items as you can. This will help open the doorway of their hearts”.

- a) Always use the “Wai” when speaking to Thais. (Don’t forget to smile)
- b) Always use the spoken greeting of “Sawadii Khrup (M)/Sawadii Kha (F)” instead of “Hello”.
- c) Always use some basic Thai phrases such as “Phom Chue ___(M)/Dichan Chue (F) ___”

2. Make it personal. Tell the people what has happened to you. Share about your life “before” Christ but don’t dwell on all the “bad things”. Give enough details to show your need for Christ. Make it relateable to your audience - adjust if speaking to kids/youth or adults etc.

3. How you came to Christ. Don’t be afraid to use broad terms about God and your need for Him.

4. How your life has changed after receiving Christ? Emphasize change in character and lifestyle. Be realistic - Christians still do have problems etc. Be honest - God will use anyone’s testimony even if you think yours is unspectacular.

5. Close with a summary statement, use a scripture verse/life verse, ask a question, or give an invitation or a combo of these. You can also say **“Khaaw Pra Jaow Oo-wee pawn khруп (M) /“Khaaw Pra Jaow Oo-wee pawn kha (F)”** (God bless you!)

Giving a personal testimony is simply telling others what Christ has done for you. Remember that the Lord will use your words to assure, encourage, convict, and gently lead others to himself.

Lastly, be careful with your use of terms. The simpler the terminology, the easier it will be to translate and for the people to understand your intent. Avoid words like “born again, repent, sin, saved, lost, Gospel etc.

To practice your Thai - Check out: Learning Thai - Basic Words/Phrases

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJNrs4z_Pn0