No Extra Cloak - Dennis & Melody Nordine

During our 25-hours of travel from Michigan to Bangkok I read the Gospel of Mark. In Mark 6 Jesus sent his twelve disciples out two-by-two, telling everyone to turn to God. That sounded something like what we are doing now.

Jesus told his followers, “Take nothing for your journey except a walking stick. He allowed them to wear sandals but not take a change of clothes.” I remembered reading the same kind of instructions in Matthew 10. Then this week in Bangkok (while getting over jet lag), I read similar restrictions in Luke 9. (I hope you too are enjoying reading the whole Bible every year.)

I thought to myself, we had four roller bags full of things for our four months in SE Asia. I had seven changes of clothes so I could do laundry just once a week! Was I being materialistic, perhaps even disobedient?

However, thoughts about clothing and luggage were overpowered with thoughts about flooding. In Bangkok, especially in the neighborhoods where six of our Bethlehem Star of Peace fieldworkers live and share their lives, there was news of extensive flooding.



Bangkok LKB Road flooding

During our Chicago layover, I watched a video of flooding in Cambodia sent by BSOP workers. The river that flows through the middle of Battambang City is normally 20 feet below the bridges that connect the two halves of the city. In that video, water was splashing over the deck of several bridges. The area surrounding the apartments of several BSOP workers was knee-deep. Inside their apartments, the refrigerator needed to be put up on a low table to keep them out of the water intruding kitchens.



Battambang, Cambodia river rose 20 feet

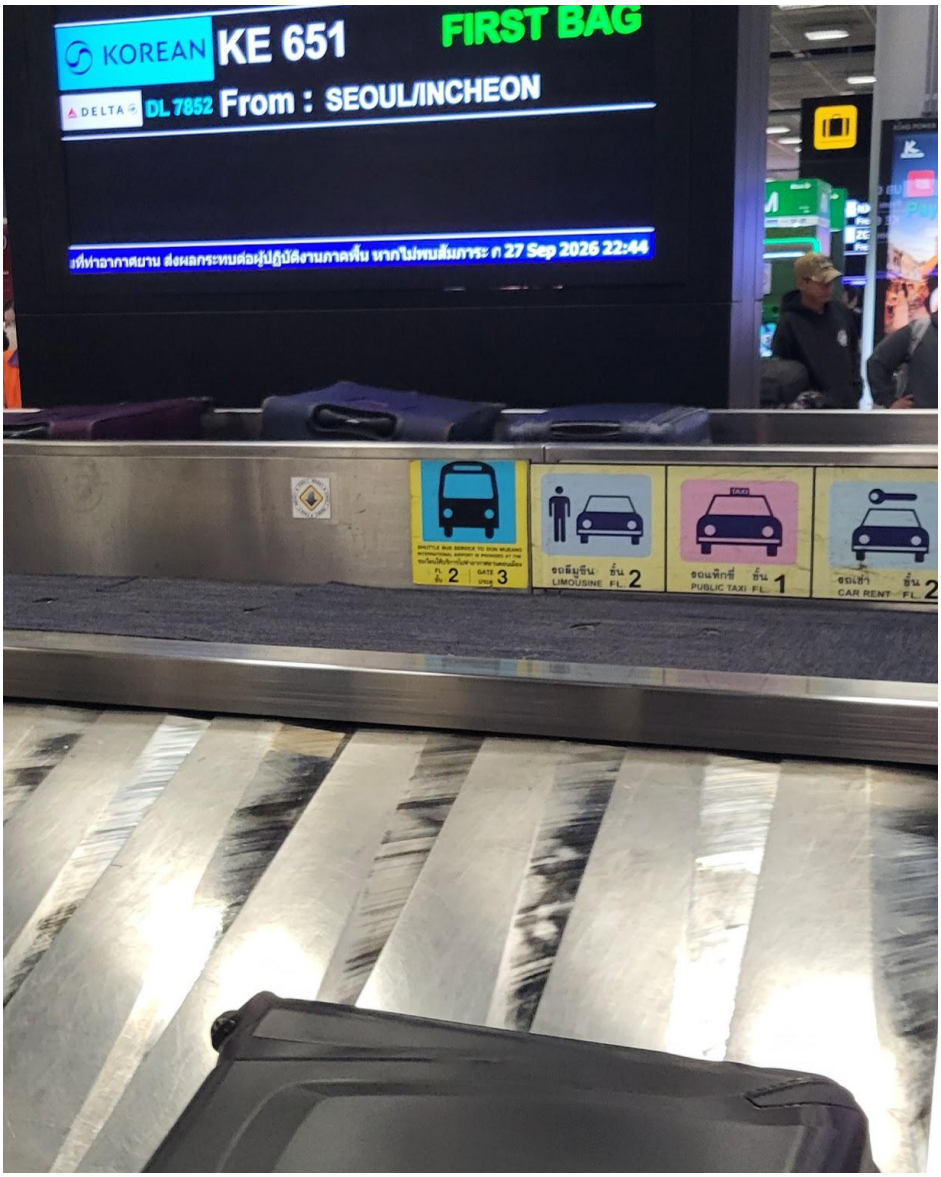


Glenda raising her fridge

Praise God that over the past few days, the water level in Cambodia has begun going down!

We arrived in Bangkok at about 10 p.m. Sunday night. We were welcomed by being ushered to the Priority line for flight crews and Seniors over 70. We passed through immigration quickly, and then moved to the baggage claim area. Our carousel said, “Bag Delay—We apologize for any inconvenience caused.” Then only minutes later at 10:44 the carousel flashed “First Bag.” Soon we were on our way with our four rollers to meet our BSOP hosts, Carol and Don Estrella. We drove through some water in the streets of LKB, but made it safely to the Santisuk English Center where they live and we have a guest apartment until December 24.





First Bag arrived from Seoul to Bangkok

Monday we learned of the GIANT backlog of 10,000 bags at the airport because workers could not make it through flooded streets to get to their airport baggage handling jobs. God was really watching over our “extra cloak.”

Bangkok Post | LEARNING



A passenger talks to a staff member at Suvarnabhumi airport, where about 10,000 pieces of luggage remained uncleared, on Tuesday. (Photo: Nutthawat Wichieanbut)

A total of 10,000 pieces of luggage piled up at Suvarnabhumi airport between Sept 26 and 28 as a result of flooding [redacted]



CJ's Floating Groceries

Monday morning Don and his son CJ walked several blocks to the large grocery store in LKB. After being closed during the rainy weekend, the store re-opened, but the parking lot was not. Estrellas needed groceries so the two shoppers waded through the flooded lot to get their necessities. This is NOT Bangkok's famous Floating Market! :})

Since Monday we have been “stuck” to within a few blocks of the *Santisuk* English Center-LKB because main road intersections are filled with deep water. Saturday morning there was visible progress in the water going down in our area, but many roads are not yet clear.



LKB Road on Friday

We’re thankful!

We are safe, we have electricity, we have food and filtered water, we have our luggage, we have teaching supplies. Other BSOP workers, who were earlier captives in the neighborhood of *Santisuk*’s main campus, are now back to near normal travel.



DLN's More Conversations

Praise God that trial copies of the textbook that Dennis has been writing were printed this week using the LKB Center's ink-jet printer. Lord willing, we will have students to be the first to try More Conversations. They will talk about many things—nicknames, food, workplace jealousy, change, the unexpected, animals and more. Each session also includes reading a portion of Daniel's life story.

Pray with us that the waters will recede here in LKB. A new *Santisuk* term begins Monday, October 5.

Thanks for your prayers and partnership.

Onward,

Dennis & Melody Nordine

P.S.

Is an extra cloak OK today?

In Luke 22:35-36 Jesus gave fresh instructions for the new expanded (global) ministry his followers would have. “But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword, is to sell his coat and buy one.” I feel better about bringing teaching materials (including the “sword” of the Spirit) and extra clothing, and money to pay for our food, lodging, and local travel.

There’s an enemy here doing his best to thwart the spread of the good news among least reached peoples in Thailand and Cambodia. Pray that he will be thwarted.