

# FRIENDSHIP NEWSLETTER

For Thai English Students

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## Who Can Help When We Have Problems?

By Arlene Sorenson, English teacher in Bangkok

“You have cancer,” the doctor said, “ And you need to have surgery to remove it.” That was November 2, 2000. I was at Sirirat Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, a long distance from my family and home. I never wanted to hear those words! What was I going to do? It was like a bad dream that I hoped was not really happening to me.

A few days later, I had surgery. Before I left the hospital, my doctor told me that he had removed all the cancer and tests showed that it had not spread to other parts of my body! “ What good news,” I thought. But then he said, “I want you to have chemotherapy.” I could not believe what I was hearing.



When I asked him why I needed chemotherapy, he explained that these strong drugs would kill any other cancer cells that might be hiding in my body. He also told me that the drugs would probably make me sick and that my hair would fall out. He was right!

When we become sick or receive other bad news, we don't want to believe what we have heard. We want to run away from the truth and from the problems and pain. But I found I could not run away. I might be a very sick person today, if I had not believed the doctor's report and obeyed his instructions to have surgery and chemotherapy. I trusted the doctor to help be, but I also trusted in God. I believed He was the one who had given me life and my life was in His Hands! He gave me His peace and was with me in my time of sickness.



A verse from the Bible says:

“Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God!” John 14:1

“อย่าให้ใจท่านทั้งหลายเป็นทุกข์ จงวางใจในพระเจ้า”

I did not go back to America for surgery and chemotherapy, but stayed in Asia. My family, friends, and students showed their love and concern for me in many ways. Some visited me, made meals for me, and went with me to the doctor's office for the chemo injection. Others sent cards, e-mails, and called me on the phone. Many of them, who could not be with me, prayed to God for me, asking that He heal me. God answered our prayers.

Questions: Did you understand?

1. What problem did Arlene have in her life?
2. What two things did the doctor tell her she needed to do to be well again?
3. What did she want to do when she heard the bad news?
4. Who, besides her doctors, helped her during her illness?
5. What did they do to help her?

Discussion: Something to think about:

How would you feel if you got bad news about your health?

What would you do when you have a problem you can't take care of by yourself?