

Dear Family & Friends,

A sad, sad day in Thailand.

Actually last night was the most intense (that we could hear) of any of the other nights. Backing up to Monday...at 3p.m. the government gave the "red shirt" protesters the deadline of get out of the protest area or they would take it by force. Monday the day was fairly quiet. Monday night again, not much. Tuesday was fairly quiet again, but by Tuesday evening about 7 p.m. here, the shooting and grenade blasts were revving up. We went through last night waking up a few times to blasts. This morning more of the same.

Today (Wednesday morning for us, Tuesday night in the States) the Army advanced into the main protest area with tanks dismantling the homemade barricades of tires and bamboo sticks. I took the boys across our soi to an apartment building (Centre Point) which allows us to use their swimming pool. It was about 9:30 in the morning and we could hear several helicopters that kept circling an area to the North of our church and a huge billow of black smoke flowing up in the sky (the protesters had begun burning some of their tire barricades)

By around 1p.m. (I think, trying to remember exactly), it all grew silent again. We got word, via news sources that 3 of the main "red shirt" leaders had turned themselves in. The Army had set up buses to send the protesters who live up North and in the Northeast back home, but many dispersed after the leaders turned themselves in.

That's when the real turmoil began. Gunshots and explosions could be heard again and black smoke began rising again. Our power was turned off shortly after. We started getting phone calls from church members asking if we were okay and telling us of all the things that were burning right around the church. You know if people in BKK are concerned enough to call that maybe there is good reason to be concerned yourself.

Here is a list of the 12 places that have been reported as being set on fire. This is from "The Nation" website. I'll make a few notes in "blue" below.

1. The areas on Rama I Road around Paragon shopping mall and Siam Square. Firefighters could not gain access because of gun attacks from rioters. Siam Theatre was completely burned down. [The Paragon is where we've spent many days off. It's a wonderful mall, with a cheap delicious Thai food court, and an amazing underwater aquarium. They did not get into Paragon \(as far as we know, but the Theatre is very close\).](#)

2. Parts of Centara Grand Hotel at Rajprasong were set on fire. Firefighting was

successful. We pass this hotel when we take the skytrain to ChitLom (3 stops from our house)

3. Fire at the Stock Exchange building on Wireless Road caused huge damage. And the blaze rages on as rioters refused to allow access for firefighters. This is the road the US Embassy is on.

4. Mahatun Building at Phloenchit was set on fire causing a total damage. Ploenchit is the first road after the highway and after our hospital (Bumrungrad)

5. The blazes at the Office of Narcotics Control Board and the nearby convenience store 7Eleven in Din Daeng were put out. This is right behind the church near Rama IV

6. Bangkok Bank and Krung Thai Bank branches in Asoke were completely burned down. We live between Asoke and Nana (this is about a 15 min walk from us, about 2-5 min walk from the skytrain)

7. Bangkok Bank and Government Saving Bank branches in Din Daeng were completely burned down.

8. The Maleenont Building, housing Channel 3, has been under arson attack and firefighters could not gain access. This is behind us, close to the Kloeng Toei wet market where we go for our fruit, vegetables and meats. Also where the Step Ahead ministry is located, which our church supports.

9. Bangkok Bank branch and Tesco Lotus superstore on Rama IV Road were set on fire and firefighters could not gain access. This is right across the street from where we shop (at CarreFour)

10. The fire at the office of the Metropolitan Electricity Authority in Klong Toei was successfully put out.

11. Firefighters managed to put out the fire at Central World shopping mall. 2nd largest mall in Thailand (or Asia? can't remember). Anyway, was just finished being built about 4 years ago. If you saw our Christmas photos of BKK, many were taken at this mall.

12. Bangkok Bank branch at Victory Monument was set on fire.

\* The Bangkok Bank is being targeted by the "reds" b/c it is reported that Bangkok Bank supports the current PM (I have not heard this in the news, just from some Thais I've talked to). We bank at the Bangkok Bank!

Here's another article about the events of today if you're interested.

<http://www.thaivisa.com/forum/Bangkok-Gripped-Looting-Arson-t367021.html>

So as far as our family? We haven't decided to evacuate yet. If we do need to leave where we live, we would not leave to return to the States (at this time), but would just go

to a safer location (if there is such a thing) and wait it out. BUT we don't foresee this being a need. Today just kind of proves that there really is not safe place at the moment since many of these fires were so random (as far as location). Even though things are close, we feel okay where we are (for the most part).

Today my devotions took me to Psalm 37. I wasn't looking for this passage, I was just following a devotional book I'm in at the moment. Just that reminder again to "commit our way to the Lord, to trust Him and HE WILL DO IT!" And a bit later the reminder to "not fret". It's only by God's Grace and the strength He gives that we can stand and "not fret". Of course I have moments...even now I hear gunshots in the background, but I am learning to quickly turn the "tension" that is my first reaction right now, into praise and prayer, even if it's just "God help us".

If YOU have a word from the Word you'd like to share with us. Something that God has used to bring comfort in your life, we'd love to have that. Relying on Scripture is the only thing we have. The Word is our Sword! Please send what God's given you.

Many are saying this can be the catalyst for change, revival an outpouring of the Spirit like Thailand has never seen. We pray so. Please join us! If all of this is so the Gospel can reach this Nation, then to God be the Glory!

Enough for now...thanks for reading this.

Blessings,  
Amy

PS The photo was taken by a friend of ours who lives on our soi. This is the skytrain station we walk past almost daily. A bus was also reported as burning right near here today.

