



Mr. and Mrs. James Mumby and two children leave for Thailand to continue their mission for Jehovah's Witnesses. The family has been in this district for some time enjoying a well-deserved vacation.

Two Missionaries Return To Thailand to Continue Work for Witnesses

James Mumby left Belleville yesterday on the first lap of his 12,500 mile return trip to Thailand. Jim, 38, and his wife, 33, are working missionaries for Jehovah's Witnesses. They have two children, Lisa, age 5 and Stephen, age 2, both born in Thailand. They have just concluded their first visit home in eight years.

Raised on the family farm at R. R. 2, Belleville, Jim graduated from Belleville Collegiate in 1945 and immediately entered the full-time ministry for which he had taken training concurrently with his high school education. His first assignments took him to Nova Scotia, Quebec

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 "rice." Our children are fluent in both Thai and English. They are learning it the easy way," Jim says.

When asked how Jehovah's Witnesses are received in a country that is 99 per cent Buddhist, Jim explained: "The people are pleasant and hospitable, and often curious about our belief. Some of their beliefs, such as immortality of the soul and a hell of fiery torment, are practically identical to those commonly taught in Christendom, and since Jehovah's Witnesses do not agree with either, in a way we are at no greater odds with the Buddhists than we are with the religions of the West.

province and Northern Ontario.

In 1958 Jim and his wife, the former Ruth Lundstedt of Wadena, Saskatchewan, were invited to the missionary training course at the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead at South Lansing, New York. On their graduation day Jim represented the class of 103 students in speaking to an audience of 120,000 Jehovah's Witnesses assembled in international convention at Yankee Stadium in New York City.

They entered Laos in 1959 and opened a missionary home for the Watchtower Society in the capital city of Vientiane. Two years later they transferred to Bangkok, Thailand. With the arrival of their first child in 1961, the Mumby's were obliged to leave the special missionary ranks as their modest missionary allowance (\$7.00 per month each, plus room and board) would not support a family. However, they determined to stay in Thailand and carry on their missionary work part time. Jim took work with an import firm and they both found it possible to continue to have a very active part in the public preaching work of Jehovah's Witnesses there.

LANGUAGE A PROBLEM

"Language was a problem at first, of course," Jim said in an address to the local congregation in their Kingdom Hall last Friday evening. "However, we jumped in with both feet, so to speak. After just six weeks in the country we started calling from house to house. We only knew a couple of dozen words, but it was enough to get the purpose of our call across and we would leave the "Watchtower" and "Awake!" magazine with the people in their own language. By the end of the first year I had sufficient command of the language to attempt my first public Bible lecture in Thai. It wasn't supposed to be humorous but I'm sure you can appreciate that the native Thai just could not restrain a few little chuckles when I would give a slightly wrong tonal inflection to some words and have them come out meaning something entirely different, such as "pig" instead of "group", or "knee" instead of

However, the Buddhists do not accept the Bible, and quoting it makes no impression on them at first. More progress is made at the start by reasoning with them on their belief in reincarnation. A few logical questions will sometimes start them thinking about the possibility of their theory being wrong and the Bible teaching being correct as it is more reasonable. One question we often ask is, "Since, according to your reincarnation theory, all living things that die are transferred to a female of some species to be born of her, then what need is there for the male of any species?"

FOOD ABUNDANT

Commenting on conditions in general in the country, Jim noted that while there are many poor people, food is abundant, and inexpensive. Housing for Europeans is costly, starting at \$150 per month for a one bedroom apartment and going to over \$500 per month for a house of reasonable Western standards. There have been no great natural disasters nor wars experienced by the people for several generations, so there is a generally carefree atmosphere prevailing. Effect of the war in nearby Viet Nam is reflected only in the presence of a number of U.S. military personnel.

Jim's mother, Clara, widow of the late Arthur Mumby, and brother, Gerald, still live on the family farm where a host of relatives and friends called during the past week to visit the vacationing missionary family. Jim has a sister, Shirley Thornton, living at R. R. 2, Belleville, and a brother, George, living in Georgetown, Ontario.

By the time the Mumby's get back to Thailand they will have circled the globe. They came via the Philippines, Japan, Alaska and Vancouver. Their return flight is scheduled through New York, Copenhagen, Zurich, Karachi and then to Bangkok, thus completing their circuit of the globe.

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