



## George and Awn in Thailand

The last couple months have been tough. It continues. My friend and mentor John Ridgway recently lost his wife. Then he was out on a walk, got a mobile phone call and sat down to talk with the caller.

During the chat he felt dizzy and fell forward off his seat. The resulting fall caused a fracture in the C1 vertebrae and he is now hospitalized for many days in ICU. Please pray for his recovery. A C1 fracture like this could lead to death or paralysis.

John and I first met here in Thailand way back when both Pam and I were here. Why John came to visit me is unknown to me, really. He held no administrative or organizational responsibility for us. He did not come to invite me to a meeting or a conference. He merely came to get to know us.



I have had a long engagement with John during all that time it has always been as a friend, never a supervisor. Something that John strikes me as is a Good Shepherd.



In Luke 15 the Pharisees and the scribes began to complain, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

Luke writes about Jesus that "He told them this parable". Interestingly "this parable" is three stories. Most people focus on the object of the three stories, the lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost (prodigal) son. But Jesus is answering the question "why do you spend time with sinners?"

His answer is who among you would not do the same? Who among you would not be a **Good Shepherd** who seeks the lost sheep (Psalm 23)? Who would not be a **Good Woman** who seeks the lost coin (Psalm 131:2, Is. 66:13)? Who would not be the **Good Father** who seeks the lost son (Psalm 103:13)?

John is a person who seeks those who are lost. He motivates and stimulates others to live among the lost, to seek the lost, to "receive sinners and eat with them".

Pray for John. Pray that he may recover well and continue among us for the sake of the lost, for the sake of the Gospel.

Laboring with the Shepherd,  
George and Awn

PS. Be sure to check out those cross references in Psalms and Isaiah.

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