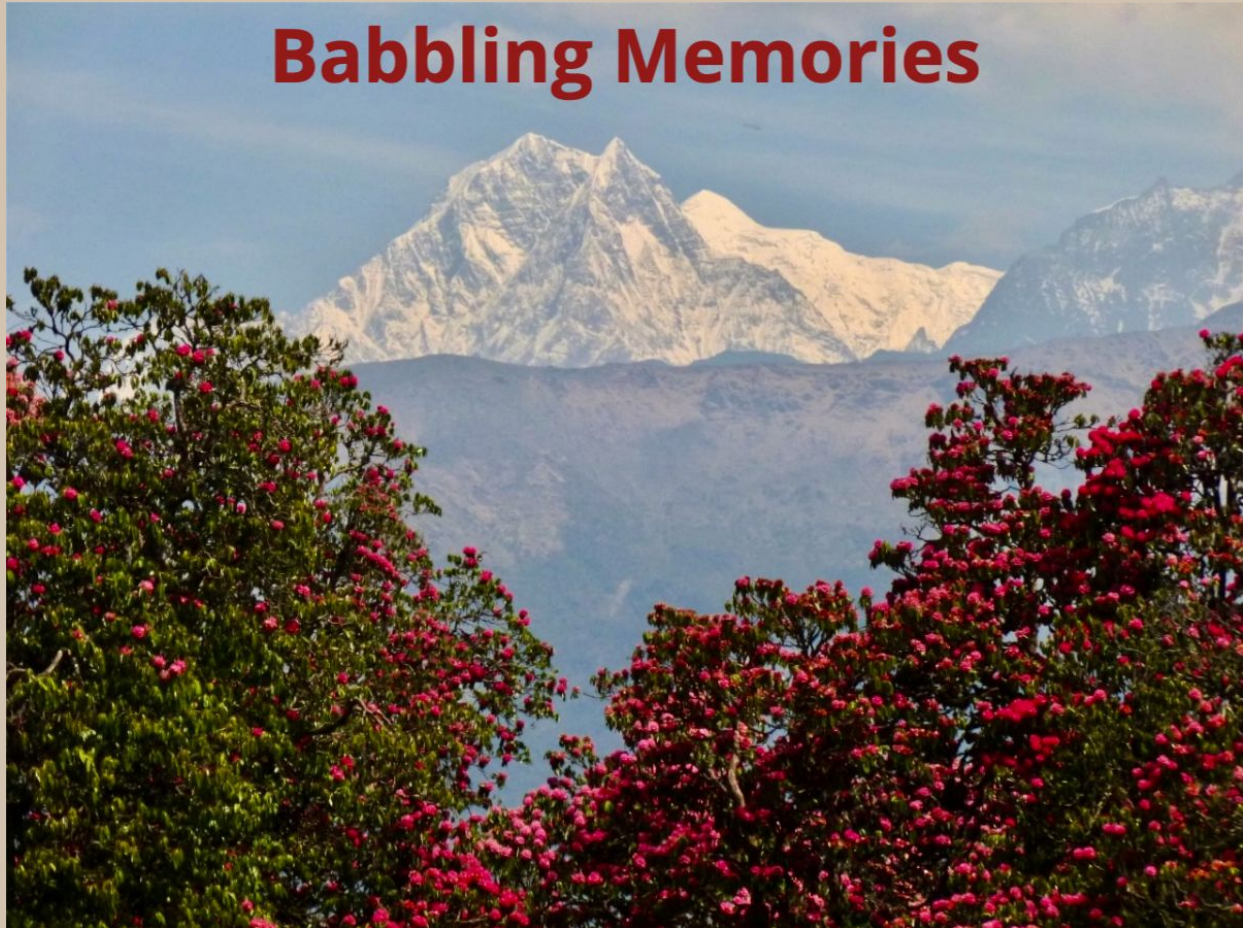


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This is the time of year when the Rhododendrons are so beautiful in the higher hill areas. But only pictures for me this year, since I wasn't able to get out anywhere to see them.

Moving into Change

As you know, things have taken a turn here and and I have been denied a regular visa to stay here. So, I returned to settle and close things up. The plan is to be here 5 months/year that is available, and then spend the rest of the time in Chiang Mai, Thailand. This means a lot of change for sure. During the last couple months I have been going through many iterations about exactly how to handle all this. Definitely another time to be flexible. My landlords were very anxious to keep me and tried several things to make this happen. In the end, I am actually going to keep part of the apartment that I've been in, and the landlord will use the rest when I'm not here. This brings down the rental cost, which has been a concern. This new plan definitely will increase my expenses.

So, I've been sorting and packing, and sorting and packing, and working to sell and get rid of things. Never anyone's favorite job, and this particular household of things, has been here for more than 20 years. I've been able to pretty drastically decrease what I have, get a few things ready to send to the US, set aside things to take to my 'next' home, and get rid of even more in various ways. What a job! I'm glad its close to done. This has also been the chance to go through a file cabinet of paperwork, and get my teaching and other resources into electronic format for use no matter where I end up.

I have started the visa process for Thailand, and will be leaving April 26 from here. My plan is to come back here in November. At the same time I am looking for opportunities that He provides, including working electronically (perhaps even teaching and mentoring). I also have some finance work, I am keeping up with, which thankful can be done distantly.



Infrequent shopping visit to a more traditional market area nearby

It was fun seeing all the 'traditional' items in a more traditional atmosphere

Perhaps some of you have followed the election here. First and foremost, after the tremendous violence that led to this, it was such a relief that the elections were successfully held without violence. A true answer to intercession. There were so many unknowns, and many precautions were taken including closing borders, controlling travel just before and on election day, many extra security people, etc. Everything was closed on that Thursday, and most things didn't even start opening back up until the next week. Most of us just stayed home that day as a precaution.

There were many surprises in the election, and no doubt that there are a lot of changes ahead.

It remains to be seen if the winning party can manage to do what they have claimed and if people in general will be patient for things to really change. Some concerns on our side, as this group has been somewhat anti-foreign and anti-'Family' in the past. There is still much need to intercede for the future. We can also hope and see if some of the immigration policies are changed in the future.

It's a long read, but for those that are interested, the button below leads to a good article that explains a lot of what has been happening here.

Article about
election victory



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