ON THE ROAD AGAIN (AGAIN)

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Category: Observations

Well, I've been in Bangkok for just over 24 hours.The journey out here was a good one. At first, I was disappointed to find myself on an old 747 without a good selection of films to watch for the long night flight, but - wonder of wonders - I ended up having a row of three seats all to myself and I was able to lie down and get seven or more hours of sleep. Wonderful!

I had a bit of a panic when I cleared customs and tried to get money from a cashpoint. For no particular reason, I still have my old debit card in my wallet, despite it being out of date and despite it looking identical to my new card. So, when I tried to get money using my old card, the machine wanted nothing to do with me. Then when I tried to use my credit card, that wasn't accepted either. Finally, I realised that I had been using my old card and was able to get some money for my taxi into the city. Later on that evening, I had a long (and expensive) call to our bank to explain that I really was in Thailand and that I wasn't a con artist stealing my own money. I suppose I should be glad of the security, but it does seem a it of a pain.

I've never been into Bangkok before (though I've passed through the airport a few times) and it was interesting to see the city as the taxi took me in to the Christian Guest House. The network of toll road and highways is very impressive and the city is BIG. I'm sorry that the photo doesn't really do the city justice, but the driver wouldn't stop for me to take a better one.

It was good to sleep in a bed (in an air-conditioned room) for at least part of the night. Sadly,Â I also spent a fair bit of the night wide awake with jetlag. Have I mentioned that I am really good at jetlag before?

I was, of course, fast asleep when I should have been having breakfast with my colleague Francis - but he phoned up to my room and woke me.

It's been a good day catching up with Francis and discussing different issues relating to Bible translation and language development world wide. We also had lunch with a Wycliffe UK member who is working in Northern Thailand and her Thai supervisor. It is always really exciting to see expat colleagues integrating into national led organisations around the world.

All in all, it has been a good day. Here is hoping for a good night's sleep.