



The Kilgo Family: TCM Missionaries Living In Southeast Asia

SPRING 2018: 4-YEAR RECAP—Patrick Kilgo

Dear Friends,

Greetings from halfway around the world. We hope this letter finds you and your family doing well in the Lord! We are in the middle of a very busy season that has included an unexpected house move and some bouts with sickness.

May 9th marks our 4-year anniversary of arriving in Southeast Asia. It has been an amazing time of ministry and personal growth for our family. God has been so faithful in every way imaginable. I want to share with you how the ministry here developed. Often people think that church planting is all about Bible learning or superior doctrinal defense. That's not completely true. It's primarily about building relationships!

We arrived on May 9th, 2014 and immediately, but naively, looked for ministry opportunities. I made some early mistakes by trying to establish a ministry too quickly. So for the next 3-4 months, we took the time to establish our footing in this new country, where cars travel on the opposite side of the road and drivers are on the opposite side of the car. We spent this time talking to people, just talking. Michelle, in particular, tried to keep a routine where she would see the same people at the same time everyday. We shopped at the same stores and talked to the same cashiers every day. Over time, as we ourselves got adjusted to this new culture, people around us also got accustomed to us, and we started to build trust. This was, and continues to be, the single most important ministry skill we employ – simply talking to people about their lives and gaining their trust.

About four months after we arrived, God began opening doors by providing opportunities to have deeper levels of trust with key people. I finished an online English as A Second Language (ESL) course on a Thursday. On Saturday, two days later, a local woman who I didn't know approached me and asked if I would like to teach English to parents while their kids were in an AWANA program. The timing was unmistakable – this was the open door from the Lord and I immediately agreed. We started an English class the next week, one that continues to this day. The goal of the English class is simple: make friends! And we

have made a large number of friends after four years! And many of these friends are instrumental in our church today.

A careful study of Paul's life reveals that this was his method too! Personal relationships were the key that opened the door to his church plants. He wrote in 1 Thessalonians 2:8 ***"So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us."***

TCM's Joyce Anderson often says, ***"People don't care what you know until they know that you care."*** And so we made friends! These friends introduced us to more friends. Soon some of these friends wanted us to start a Bible study and people began hearing the gospel and coming to faith. After a few years, we had enough people to start our first church here. The church opened on November 6, 2016, and because of our network of friends, it has doubled in size to about 85-90 people. Now we are on the verge of a truly dynamic church with trained local leadership and a vision of reaching out with the gospel. My encouragement to you is this: Let your ministry start the Pauline way - by making friendly relationships with people.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-14

Upcoming Events in Need of Prayer

The month of May will be the busiest of our lives. Please pray for the following:

1) We are hosting the **Sanders Family**, TCM missionary candidates who desire to work alongside us in the future. They have many challenges ahead of them, not the least of which is finding a way to gain a long-term visa to stay in the country. They have two young children, and they've chosen a difficult path out of a desire to serve the Lord. Please pray.

2) The **Asia Adventure Team** will be visiting us May 19-23. This team is touring Southeast Asia to visit TCM ministry fields. Please pray for safe travels and their edification.

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3) The **4th Southeast Asia Grace Conference** will be held May 24-28 in Thailand. Please pray for a refreshing time of fellowship, and for new and fruitful collaboration.

4) Despite mostly positive **steps forward in ministry** in recent years, we still have had some heartbreaking setbacks with church members we love and care about. Please pray for our church members and their continued growth.



Sanders with Kilgos

Family Member Updates

Robert is almost 20-years old and received his Associates Degree (with Honors!) in April. He applied for an internship with our U.S. Senator in Georgia and was selected! He will spend 6 weeks working for the senator and gaining practical political experience.

Elisabeth will be 18-years old this summer. She is wrapping up her junior year and starting to prepare her college applications. She is a very good student and we are hoping she gets some scholarship opportunities. More than the rest of us, she really misses living in America, especially the food. Also, living in SE Asia means that she can't drive, so she is eager to get her driver's license!

David, 14, has learned that he can make a little extra money by helping Chinese children improve their English. He's made the Honor Roll two quarters in a row. David is working on his Eagle Scout rank and still wants to be a pilot.

Anna, 12, started playing piano 16 months ago. Praise God, she is a natural and loves it. She practices all the time and gives it her very best. She is doing well in school and receives glowing reports about her kindness to others. She is a great missionary because she easily makes friends.

Pat Kilgo for the Kilgo Family