



Maraats in Thailand

March 2018



Dear Beloved Partners in the Gospel,

Greetings in the most precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from the Kingdom of Thailand.

We praise God for what He has done! After we took Josiah to Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, Verna and I started our travels to visit friends and churches from September to 2nd week of February. We drove to many places and saw the beautiful country of America. We drove around 19,000 miles and went through 25 different States. We slept on 45 different beds. Everywhere we went, God provided gracious and kind people to take care of us. They gave us rooms to sleep and everyone was eager to hear what is going in our ministries in Thailand. We are also sad that we were unable to visit many of you; perhaps next time. Truly, we were blessed beyond measure as we visited churches, friends and partners. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. God answers prayers!



Students and Parents Picnic at Calvin College

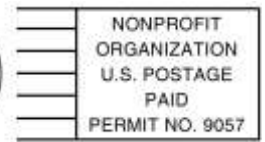
Verna and I are now back in Thailand. We arrived in Chiang Mai, Thailand February 23rd. All our luggage arrived safely. Nathan Killion, Rebekah Dickey and Joy Gahaton met us at the airport. It took Verna and me over a week to recover from our jet lag. When we left America, Genesis had just gotten over a terrible flu. Praise God that He gave him enough strength to travel for many hours in the airplane. We are now experiencing the tropical climate in Thailand. Our temperatures are high 90s to low 70s Fahrenheit. It will be hotter in April and May. We are adjusting again to the heat here in Thailand after our winter experience in America. By the way, our recent trip to the U.S.A. was our first winter experience living and traveling.

Our church in Chiang Mai celebrated its 4th Anniversary on March 4, 2018. Technically, the anniversary is on the second Sunday of February, but the church decided to wait for our arrival. We are so thankful they waited for Verna and me to our church's very important event. Our whole church is grateful to God's grace, goodness and faithfulness. Phonrawin gave a very good testimony of how she came to know the Lord Jesus as her Savior through our ministries here in Thailand. We are thankful that the people in our church are growing in their spiritual life. Please pray that our members will not be intimidated in sharing the gospel with many Thai Buddhists. May God grant our members boldness to share the message of salvation with their own people.

Verna and I are very grateful to God for what He has done for our family. Andrea is almost done with her junior year at Calvin College. This spring semester she started her teaching practice in a secondary school in Grand Rapids. By God's grace she will graduate in May 2019. Josiah has started well as a freshman. While doing his studies, he also works on campus at the cafeteria for 9-10 hours a week. Andrea is a member of a local church's worship team and Josiah helps at the children's Sunday School. Both are coming home to Thailand in May 2018. Thank you, dear friends, for sending your gifts toward the education of Andrea and Josiah. We could never continue doing our ministries here in Thailand without your partnership. Your prayers and giving mean so much to us.



The country of Thailand is hosting the 4th Southeast Asia Grace Conference to be held May 24-28, 2018. Delegates are coming from: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and U.S.A. We are praying and expecting around 180 people to come for the conference. Beloved, we covet your prayers as we host the 4th SEAGC. There are many things to prepare and we need wisdom, good health and unity for the Conference. One of the reasons Andrea and Josiah are coming home to Thailand is to help with the Conference.



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Address Correction Requested



Verna and I are currently staying at our church building. We are thankful there is a room available for us. We have not unpacked our suitcases since we are yet to find a house to rent. By the last week of March we are aiming to start looking for a house. Genesis has to finish a class requirement for his MA at Cornerstone University. He has been given one month to complete all the requirements needed for his class.

This year, we will celebrate 26 years as missionaries of Things to Come Mission, and Verna and I will celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary. In May 2018, we will have been in Thailand 10 years. God is good!



Prayer requests:

Pray for open doors. Thailand has less than one percent born again Christians out of 68 million.

- Pray** that our church members will be bold to share the message of salvation with their fellow Thai Buddhists.
- Pray** for a good and affordable house to rent. We want to use our future house to reach many Thais with the gospel.
- Pray** for the coming 4th Southeast Asia Grace Conference.
- Pray** for Andrea and Josiah to succeed in their studies.
- Pray** for Verna and me as we are now empty nesters.

Beloved, we sincerely thank you for standing behind us in prayer and giving. Your partnership means a lot and we thank God for each of you immensely!

Your co-laborers in the gospel,

Genesis, Verna, Andrea and Josiah Maraات (Romans 1:16)

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