

MARAATS IN THAILAND

June 2020

Dear Faithful Partners and Friends,

Every time we think of you, we give thanks to our God. Whenever we pray, we make our requests for all of you with joy, for you all have been our partners in spreading the gospel through your faithful giving and prayers. Thank you, beloved, for standing behind us even during this worldwide pandemic that caused the world economy to be on the verge of collapse. Hundreds of thousands of people succumbed to this unseen foe. As the world is grappling to find the vaccine for COVID-19, we are certain that God, who began the good work within you, will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ!

Verna and I went to the Philippines for two months late last year. We had to help Josiah find a school. We were grateful to many who prayed and helped us while looking for a college for Josiah. Thanks to co-missionaries, Jimmy and Joy Escobar, for the help they extended to Josiah. Finally, Josiah was enrolled at Silliman University, Dumaguete City, Philippines. We were thankful that we also could visit our family. Genesis' father and mother are now in their 90s and both are currently living at their daughter's house. Also, we cannot forget the warm welcome party that TCM's Bible School in Ozamiz City gave us. Genesis was given a chance to speak to the students and the staff.

Our scheduled flight back to Thailand was December 3, 2019. We got news that all flights were canceled because of the strong typhoon/hurricane in Manila. Thank God that after 20 hours of delay in Manila, we headed back to Thailand. Missionary Nathan Killion met us at Chiangmai airport and drove us home. Three days later, a good friend from Berean Church, Shoreline, WA came to visit Thailand. Alex Pierce was on his way to Cambodia to participate in Myra Omictin's wedding. While in Thailand, Alex had time well-spent with Maraats and Killions. Thank you, Alex, for refreshing our physical bodies with good things.

Andrea is doing well at Yongsan International School of Seoul, South Korea. She's taught Biology since August last year until the present. During the outbreak of COVID-19 in South Korea, she came to Thailand and stayed with us for almost four weeks, then returned to South Korea. While in Thailand, she continued to teach her students online. When Verna and I were on our way to the airport to pick up Andrea, we had an accident. Genesis hit a man who rode a scooter. His motorcycle was totaled, and we saw his body thrown and dropped at a far distance. It took a while for a man to wake up. Two policemen came but they had to wait for the captain to show up. An ambulance came and took the injured man to the hospital. The police captain released us but told us he would call when we needed to report to the police station. Still shaken from the accident, we proceeded to the airport where Andrea had already waited for long. Anxiously, we waited for the call from the captain since we wanted to find out what was happening to the injured man in the hospital. Eight sleepless nights passed as we wondered what was going on. We certainly did not want to hear that we killed a person! We finally received a call from the police asking us to come to the station. When we arrived there, we were so happy to see the man Genesis hit looking well. He apologized and told us that he only stayed at the hospital for four nights! According to the police report, the man was drunk while driving. We were not required to pay for the man's hospital bill and the totaled motorcycle, but we decided to give him a gift and had a chance to pray for him. It happened that his girlfriend is a Christian. Verna had a chance to share with her a bit about the love of Jesus. Genesis signed a paper, the case was closed, and we were released by the captain. What a relief!

Our 2019 Christmas celebration went very well. As usual, we invited many to join our Christmas evangelism at our new ministry in Banthii. The attendance was around 80 individuals. I would say, we have truly proclaimed the gospel through the testimonies of our Thai church members, by preaching and giving out a gift-bag with a gospel tract inside. Every person at our church worked hard in preparing the event since we had to feed them all. Our part is to plant and water the seed and God's part is to cause it to grow so many will be saved. May God grant us a harvest of souls in Banthii town! So far, we are still waiting. Success in evangelism is simply sharing the gospel of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God

First week of February we hosted a couple from mainland China. They stayed with us for six nights. Since there was already an outbreak of COVID-19 in Wuhan, China, Verna and I refrained from going to church for two weeks. When

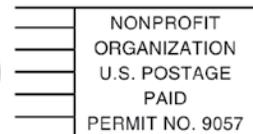
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Maraat UPDATE



Andrea came to Thailand the last week of February, there was also an outbreak of corona virus in South Korea, so again we did not go to church for two weeks. On May 25, 2020, Verna and I went to the Philippine Embassy in Bangkok to get some legal documents and renew our passports. Upon returning to Chiangmai, airport officials told us to self-quarantine at our house for 14 days. God's lesson for us is wait and learn to be patient.

Thailand declared a state of emergency on March 23, 2020 to mitigate the spread of the corona virus. For two months, churches were not allowed to meet together physically. Curfew was implemented and all international flights were suspended. A few days ago, the Prime Minister extended the ban of all incoming international flights until June 30. In the light of what is going on in Thailand and all over the world, Andrea and Juchan's wedding has been cancelled. Their wedding day was supposed to be June 27, 2020 here in Thailand. TCM's Southeast Asia Grace Conference to be held in Cebu City, Philippines on May 28 – June 1, 2020 is also postponed till next year. Verna and I bought our air tickets for Cebu on promotion in January, and we were saddened to know that the airline is not giving a refund because it was bought as nonrefundable. Anyway, we ought to rejoice because no matter what, God is in control and his grace is always sufficient.

THANKSGIVING:

- Thank God that our Thai Church was able to meet and worship online.
- Thank God that the government of Thailand allowed churches to resume physical worship on May 24.
- Thank God that during the lockdown, we were able to connect with several missionaries, leaders, and friends.
- Thank God for providing a Christian home for Josiah in the Philippines during the lockdown.
- Thank God for protecting Andrea during her six-hour flight back to Seoul. She was informed that a person sitting in the third seat from her was COVID-19 positive.
- Thank God for another one-year extension of our missionary visa in Thailand.
- Thank God for blessing us with good health and for protecting us during the car accident.

Beloved, from the bottom of our hearts, we sincerely say 'Thank You' to each one for supporting us faithfully in giving and prayers. We want you to know that you all are in our thoughts and prayers!

With much love in Christ Jesus,

Genesis, Verna, Andrea and Josiah Maraات

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