

Maraats in Thailand

November 2021

Dear Faithful Partners and Friends,

Greetings and blessings to each one!

Everyone is affected by the unprecedented worldwide pandemic! For almost two years now many churches in Thailand have been doing online worship, and some others have closed. We are thankful that during the worst months of the pandemic in Thailand, the government has allowed us to meet in-person on Sundays as we are less than 20 individuals. Verna and I could have opted to do our worship online during the surge of infection in Chiangmai, yet our church members decided to meet in-person on Sundays. Everyone looks forward to our worship together and fellowship lunch following the service. Our church culture is that every Sunday, all the members share a fellowship lunch, and this is part of our church budget. What a blessing to come together to worship the Lord and enjoy our meal together!

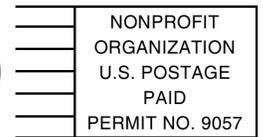
We are thankful for a good internet connection in Thailand. Starting in April 2021, Genesis started an organizational leadership virtual meeting among selected leaders from TCM Philippines and a few other countries. The meeting is scheduled twice per month and so far, people have appreciated the leadership forum. It's not only a leadership forum but it's also a wonderful time to pray together about various concerns.

We are also thankful that God has given us the means to do an online encouragement ministry since the beginning of the pandemic. People need prayer and encouragement during this difficult time whether they are relatives, fellow believers, co-workers or fellow leaders. We lost our co-missionary, Jimmy Escobar, in September after a bout with Covid-19. Verna and I have been extending daily emotional support to Jimmy's beloved wife, Joy. Please include Joy Escobar and her children, Jam and Josh, in your prayer as they are in extreme pain from losing Jimmy. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."* (2 Cor. 1:3-4) We want to be channels of God's comfort and blessing to others, as God has been so gracious and good to us!

FAMILY NEWS: Josiah is now in the second year of a Nursing program in a university in the Philippines. It's been two years since he was able to visit us here in Thailand. He would like to come and visit during break but there are so many requirements. For example, Thailand requires that travelers purchase a very high Covid-19 health insurance. We will just wait for now. Andrea started a new job this fall, teaching Biology in a Christian high school in Houston, Texas. She is so grateful that the school granted her a work visa to teach there. Verna and I would like to come to the USA and visit the churches and friends, since the last time we were there was in 2017. However, it will be hard for us to leave Thailand as we are the only TCM missionaries remaining here.



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Please pray that God will provide a coworker for our ministries in Thailand, or that someone from our church will take up a position of leadership.

Beloved, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each individual and church partnering with us in giving and prayer. Thank you, very very much, dear friends, for standing behind us faithfully. Month by month our needs have been supplied by your generous giving. We, in turn, have been able to extend financial help to some dear brothers and sisters in the Lord who have contracted the Coronavirus.

May you have a wonderful celebration of Thanksgiving this year. Praying that some of your family members will be able to make it so you all have a joyous time of giving thanks together.

Soon, this year is going to be over. As we look back, you and I can testify that God has been so faithful and gracious to each one despite the pandemic. *“Because of the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lam. 3:22-23).*

We wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Fruitful 2022!

May God find us faithful!

Your co-laborers in the gospel,

Genesis and Verna Maraas (Romans 1:16)

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