



# Maraats in Thailand

## September 2022



**Dear Beloved Partners and Friends,**

*Have mercy on us, our God, have mercy on us, for in you we take refuge. We will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed (Psalm 57:1). As it is now almost three years that the world is suffering because of COVID-19, truly, "It is through the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness, O! Lord!" Lamentations 3:22-23*

Truly, God is faithful! I still remember the day I (Genesis) arrived in Kenya, East Africa in August 1992 as my first foreign mission field. Later, Verna joined me, and we both served the Lord together in Kenya and in Thailand in sickness and in health, and in all favorable and unfavorable conditions. We do what we do because there are still millions of unreached individuals. My family and I could have not made it for 30 years now without you all, our faithful partners and friends, standing behind us in your generous gifts, prayers and encouragement. Mission is only possible because of partnership. My family and I are indebted to you all, our dear partners and friends. Also, Verna and I celebrate our 29<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this month. All our married life has been spent serving the Lord in the mission field.

In the year 2022, the Thai government cautioned all the people to restrict their movement in January and February as there was a surge of covid positive in the whole country. Thankfully, starting in March to the present, the people of Thailand were almost back to normal in their movement, but wearing masks is still enforced. Two popular malls and many other businesses in Chiangmai are closed. The economy is in bad shape due to the worldwide pandemic and the effects of the Ukraine—Russia conflict. Paul urged God's people to intercede for kings, and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity (1 Timothy 2:1-4). Let us all put more effort into praying for all those in authority so we can have peace and more and more people will hear the gospel as God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.



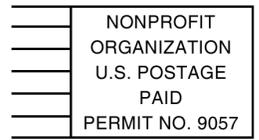
*Teacher Bee leading Sunday Worship*



*Missionary training in Philippines – June 2022*

We are thankful that in May, the government of Thailand renewed our missionary visa for another year. We are thankful also for financial provision as renewing a missionary visa in Thailand is not cheap. We continue to provide spiritual leadership and faithfully proclaim God's word to our Thai brothers and sisters at our Church. We have just finished our study in the book of Philippians. Now, our series of lessons is *Secure in the Love of God* for several Sundays. We are thankful to see spiritual growth among our members. One member named Teacher Bee is always sharing the gospel with her fellow Thais. Teacher Bee is a biology teacher at a prestigious high school in Chiangmai. Several times, she encouraged Verna and me to just keep sowing the gospel even if we might not see a harvest. The stronghold of Buddhism in the country of Thailand is almost unbreakable as Evangelical Christianity has been around for more than 200 years now, but born-again Christians are still less than one percent. Indeed, we thank the Lord unceasingly for Teacher Bee and several others. Teacher Bee is the only born-again Christian in her family and clan. Please pray for Teacher Bee, Jin, Phonrawin, Nuttee, Wan, Nong Da, Nong Chang, Tammee, and Joe as they face extreme pressure from their Buddhist family and relatives. We had a few others who went back to Buddhism.

In June, Verna and I went to the Philippines as I was invited to teach at the GTCM missionary training organized by Things to Come Mission. Missionary training applicants were selected by the TCM leadership. After the training, they will be sent to different countries. In the past, we had a trainee from Indonesia and this year, we had trainees from Cambodia. All applicants have exhibited God's missionary calling in their lives prior to acceptance in the training. We had to observe lots of travel protocols in Thailand and the Philippines as we haven't been out of the country of Thailand for almost three years due to the worldwide pandemic.



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Aside from my teaching at the missionary training, we visited our families located on the different islands. It was sad, as my (Genesis') mother could not remember me anymore. She has been suffering from dementia and is now 93 years old. We are thankful that both of my parents are still alive. We also visited Verna's elder brother. He has been unwell for several years now. Our last stop in the Philippines was in Dumaguete. Josiah needed some help as he moved to a new house near Silliman University. We are thankful that God provided a rented apartment near his university. For several days, we had to help him either move his things or buy basic furniture to furnish his apartment. Later, Josiah made a one-month visit to Thailand as for almost three years, he was unable to come home to Thailand. He is back in the Philippines now and continuing his study.

Verna and I tested Covid positive a few weeks ago. We both had almost all the symptoms except taste. So thankful that our sense of taste and smell didn't go away. We could say, that Covid is no fun as even at present we have not yet fully regained our strength. One night, we were concerned as Verna's oxygen level dropped, but God in His mercy sustained and grant healing to Verna and me.

Beloved, please pray that God will provide us with co-workers here in Thailand. Our last visit to reconnect with individuals and churches in America was in August 2017. It is hard for us to be away for several months without someone who can oversee the work in Thailand.

Beloved, thank you for standing behind us in praying and giving. Your partnership plays a vital role in the work we are doing in the country of Thailand. There are millions of unreached people who need to hear the gospel.



*Grace Church Sunday Worship – August 28, 2022. Sister Jintana giving Church cash gifts to students*

May God find us faithful!

**Your co-laborers in the gospel,**

***Genesis, Verna Maraath (Romans 1:16)***

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