



Maraats in Thailand

May 2023



Dear Beloved Partners and Friends,

Christian and Spring greetings to everyone!

Chiangmai City is the number 1 most polluted city in the world from February to April. This problem has existed for several years now as people are burning their fields to prepare for planting, including in the countries of Laos and Myanmar. Chiangmai is located near the border with Laos and Myanmar. Despite everything, God has protected us from not getting bad respiratory illnesses as many people are admitted to hospitals. God is good!

In September last year, Verna had to make an unplanned trip to the Philippines as Josiah suffered from a kidney stone. We were thankful to God that after three weeks of medications, Josiah passed his kidney stone out, and he did not have to undergo ureteroscopy with Holmium laser lithotripsy. God is good!

My [Genesis] father accidentally fell in the bathroom when Verna was about to return to Thailand. After the accident, his father lasted only a little over a week and passed into glory. He died at 93 on November 3, 2023, so I returned to the Philippines to mourn with the family. It was a reunion for the Maraats siblings. The youngest of the siblings is a missionary to Mongolia who came with his whole family. The other two are pastors serving in the Philippines. Four of the five brothers are actively involved in ministry. It was a large gathering of relatives as my father had 9 siblings. Our goal during the funeral services was to share the gospel with many relatives. Verna and I returned to Thailand in November 2022.



Maraats siblings (eldest to the youngest, Genesis is # 5)



Grace Church Christmas Celebration – December 2022

Some students at Maejo University contacted us to start learning English. Right after our return from the Philippines, several university students come to our English Center to learn conversational English. For the first 10-15 minutes, Verna and I take turns giving the students Bible lessons; thereafter conversational English lessons follow for an hour. We are thankful they keep coming and all have been exposed to creation, sin, and salvation. In December, our church hosted a Christmas party and evangelism, and all the students came to our church that day. Several non-believers came to the Christmas party as well. Church leaders and members took turns explaining the meaning of Christmas. Our church distributed a Christmas gift to each one who attended the Christmas party and evangelism.

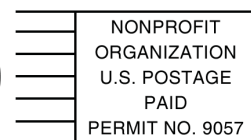


Sowing the Seed of the gospel with Maejo University Students

Family News. Verna and I are expecting our first grandchild in June (next month). Andrea's due date is on the 10th of June 2023. Verna will fly to Houston, TX on May 30. We are thankful this will happen at the beginning of summer vacation as Andrea teaches at a Christian High School in Houston.



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Beloved, we ask you to pray with us as we will be doing lots and lots of traveling ahead of us. Verna and I will travel to the Philippines on May 24, 2023, to attend the 5th Southeast Asia Grace Conference (SEAGC) in Cebu City, Philippines. Grace believers from Indonesia, East Timor, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, America, and the Philippines will attend the mission conference. On May 30, Verna will fly to Houston from Cebu City immediately after the Missions Conference. I will visit my mother and other family members. I will also spend some time with Josiah, then return to Thailand on June 9 to continue our ministries. In the second week of July, I will travel to Houston to join Verna and Andrea's family. Verna and I will travel to Indianapolis in the last week of July. Starting in August, we will visit churches, families, and friends, and attend mission conferences in the Northwest. Please pray for traveling mercies, good health, protection, and spiritual fruits as we visit mission partners in America. The last time we saw many of you was in 2017. We look forward to seeing many of you as our schedule allows. Please pray for our ministries in Thailand as no missionary cares for the church and the newly reopened ministries at Bantthii town. We are thankful that some individuals from our church, and a few others will be helping while we are gone, and I will frequently meet with the church members using Zoom.



Wrapping Christmas Gifts



Jintana and Khruu Beh invited us for lunch

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!

May God find us faithful!

Your co-laborers in the gospel,

Genesis and Verna Maraات (Romans 1:16)

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