



# MARAATS

## Thailand to Indonesia

### March 2024



#### Dear Partners and Praying Friends,

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thess. 5:18). God wills it for the believers to be grateful in all circumstances. May we grow in our thankful attitude day after day. Amen and amen!

Verna and I praise the Lord for allowing us to travel to the United States for over five months. Verna went to Houston, TX, to welcome our first granddaughter. Andrea and Juchan Moon are the proud parents of Eleanor Grace Moon, born on June 9, 2023. I (Genesis) flew to Houston on July 7, 2023. Verna and I stayed in Houston until the 26<sup>th</sup> of July, enjoying our first grandbaby. What a blessing!



*Eleanor Grace at six months*

On July 26, 2023, Verna and I flew from Houston to Indianapolis to begin visiting churches and friends. We are thankful that Things to Come Mission reserved one car (Honda CRV) for us to use on the road. We are deeply grateful that we could reconnect with churches and individuals after six years, as the last time we visited America was in 2017. We first visited the Grace Church in Indianapolis on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July. The first week of August, we left Indianapolis to visit several churches and friends in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. From Wisconsin, we drove to Minneapolis to participate in the Missions Conferences of the churches in Prior Lake and North Branch. We moved on to Des Moines, Iowa, to visit friends then headed to Idaho, Washington, and Oregon for the Mission Conferences. On the way we stopped in Rapid City, SD where good friends took us to see Mt. Rushmore. The last of the NW Grace churches that held a Mission Conference was Grants Pass, Oregon. From there, Verna and I drove to Houston, TX, and spent two weeks with Andrea’s family. Later, we traveled to Indianapolis. We traveled through 26 different States with no major car issues. Praise the Lord for keeping us healthy and safe in all our travels. God is good!

We were often weary on the road from driving, but God’s grace sustained and kept us going. We are so thankful to the churches and friends we visited who received us gladly and refreshed our tired bodies. We needed to visit these churches and friends to thank them in person for their continued prayer and support of our mission work and to inform them of our new mission assignment. Verna and I are moving to Indonesia from Thailand in July 2024.



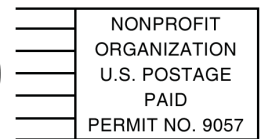
*Anderson Theological Seminary Manado*

We are moving to Indonesia to help teach at Anderson Theological Seminary in Manado and mobilize Indonesian Grace churches to send missionaries. Presently, the seminary has 43 resident students plus 15 doing their practical ministry in Indonesia's TCM churches. Our TCM-Indonesia leaders are currently working to secure our visa and work permit. May God open the door for us in Indonesia by granting us a visa for our seminary teaching and mission mobilization ministries.

As we were about to complete our five months in America, Genesis’ mother passed away on October 28, 2023 at the age of 94 in the Philippines. We felt sad that we were not able to attend the funeral. After Mother’s burial, Pastor Derbe Maraat (Genesis’ elder brother) and niece, Dessa Maraat, had a terrible motorcycle accident. Derbe had to have surgery to remove the blood clot from his brain. Praise the Lord that the surgery was successful! Dessa had a fractured left arm, but it is now healed. On November 23rd, the day we left America for Thailand, our son, Josiah, had a motorcycle accident. He had a fractured lower mandible/maxilla and broken upper gums and cheekbones. He had to have surgery to join his cheekbones and fractured jaw. His surgeon screwed in three titanium plates to bridge the broken gums and cheekbones. The surgery lasted over five hours. As soon as Verna and I arrived in Thailand, we had to rush to the Philippines to help Josiah recover from surgery and stayed with him for a month and a half.



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There are circumstances in life for which it is difficult to express our gratitude. In less than one month, three adverse circumstances were more than we could handle, not to mention all the expenses involved. However, we saw the mighty hand of God amid suffering. God graciously provided the needed funds for Josiah and Derbe's surgeries and hospital bills. Josiah, Derbe, and Dessa are doing well by God's grace!

Verna and I returned to Thailand on January 17. Then, I (Genesis) went to Indonesia from February 1-19 while Verna stayed in Thailand to continue our ministries. Our visit to Indonesia was fruitful. For one week, TCM International Director Ben Anderson taught Missions during the whole morning, and I taught the entire afternoon on Dispensations at the Anderson Theological Seminary in Manado. After our teaching ministries, Ben, our Indonesian leaders, and I visited several churches. We held mission seminars for several pastors and leaders. We visited Palu City, Central Sulawesi Island, where we had the privilege of laying the foundation stone for the groundbreaking service of the Palu Grace Bible Church building.

For nineteen years, that church has been working to secure a building permit from the government. The requirement was to have sixty landowners' signatures before being given a permit. It was almost impossible as the church is surrounded by Muslims. On September 28, 2018, a great earthquake occurred in Palu City, and part of the city was submerged because of the subsequent tsunami. Thousands of people died, and over 200,000 people were displaced. The government put a refugee camp near Palu Grace Bible Church. The church decided to bring drinking water daily to those living in the refugee camp. Little did our people know that God was at work. He opened the eyes of landowners to see the good deeds of the Grace Bible Church members. Muslim neighbors finally signed the petition and endorsed it to the government, so now they have a building permit to build a permanent sanctuary. The groundbreaking service was well-attended by the Muslim provincial and regional government officials. Indeed, our God is sovereign!

Prayer requests:

- ❖ Pray for Verna and me as we transition from Thailand to Indonesia in July 2024.
- ❖ Pray God grants us a visa and work permit for our mission work in Indonesia.
- ❖ Pray for funds for language study and a used car that we can use in Indonesia.
- ❖ Pray for good health, wisdom, and endurance.
- ❖ Pray for Pat, Adel, Noah, & Zach Arcino as they are moving to Thailand on March 12.
- ❖ Pray for our Thai members.

Beloved, though we desired to visit all of you, our time was limited as we were only given six months to stay in America. We want you to know that your partnership means a lot, and we are immensely grateful.

May God richly bless you all!

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

***Genesis & Verna Maraات (Romans 1:16)***

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***Seven weeks after Josiah's surgery***