



# Missionary Musings

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Thailand

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Greetings from hot and humid Thailand! This is such a strange year because of COVID. For 2 months I was busy. KB, a fellow missionary, needed to go for ozone therapy. The clinic was in an out of the way place in the city, so I took her 10 times. AC has gone to heaven. She died on July 25. Her American husband can still not enter Thailand because there is a ban on almost all foreigners. I have been acting in his place, coordinating with her family members to get all the hospital bills paid and sent to the American insurance company. That has been both frustrating and time-consuming. I obtained 3 copies of her death certificate and sent them by Priority Mail on August 5. Yesterday I was informed by the post office that the letter is still at the Bangkok airport. No news about when it will be sent. I thought (there I go, thinking again) that Priority Mail would be delivered despite the postal freeze. No telling when it will go to America.

Nari is an 80-year-old Thai Christian who worked for a missionary family for 40 years. In July she needed a heart catheterization and two stents. Nari only went to 4th grade in Thailand but she is smart, but she can't read English and all 6 of her medications are packaged in English (not Thai). She has to take them at 5 different times during the day. It took me almost a month to figure out a system where she could fill her own pillboxes with the correct medicine. In spite of the fact that she scrubbed the floor (and burst the artery where they put her catheter) a few days after coming home, and then chopped down a papaya bush (because her 35-year-old niece was "too weak" to do it), she is making great strides. I don't go daily as I did at first. Thank God for Nari; she is a wonderful Christian woman. Pray for her as she is a strong-willed woman and a neatnik who washes the change she gets at the market and irons what she gives to the Lord!

Living in the "COVID Era" in Thailand is sort of like being stranded on an island. While you can get everything you need for short term needs, other things are just out of your grasp. I have been waiting for 4.5 months for a strong case for my mobile phone. I just figured out that the parts ordered in May for my Electrolux oven may not come until the "COVID Era" is over as they must come from abroad. Thailand is an insulated island. We do not have the disease here, just the side effects. But we don't have a toilet paper shortage!

Today I went to the Immigration Office as I do every 90 days, to report my address to the Thai government. I can travel within Thailand, but if I leave the country, I cannot return until the "COVID Era" is over. The bus trip to Bangkok which used to take 6 hours now takes 9 hours because the bus stops at least twice for a snack/meal break.

We are having church pretty normally. Schools are back in session. Malls are full of people, most of whom have properly placed masks. Restaurants are open, but there are "family zones" and then there are individual "cubes" marked off by plastic poster board, etc.

The bakery is treading water. But there has been an upsurge in requests for sweets at breaks at the university. Hieng and Dan sometimes help out Bu-nga who has hosted 300-400 people lunches and breaks. Bu-nga is the secretary in the university office where I used to work. Hot is a student intern at the computer department at the university. He has one more year to go in business computers. My health is good. Sunday School is going okay; I have someone who relieves me so I can attend church once a month.

My prayer is for the salvation of Hieng's family as well as so many Thai friends who don't know Jesus. Please pray with me. Thank you for praying for my older sister who is doing much better; still taking chemo but is the charmer of the chemo department. Blessings to you all.

- Karen