

Missionary Musings

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Thailand

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Dear Partners in Prayer and Financial Giving,

Happy New Year! Thank you for standing with me. In March 2020, I was laid off due to an economic downturn at the hospital. I was able to get a retirement visa: which was a shock and a blessing since I had planned to work until I saw Jesus face to face.

I hated retirement and tried to get rehired back at my “old” job at the university hospital. I thought I was a shoo-in as the only applicant for my old job. But there was someone else who worked for the Faculty of Public Health who wanted to return to the Faculty of Medicine...and then there was no budget for my position.

Disappointed and discouraged at first, I now am enjoying “retirement” or rather “refirement”. His vicar and I continue to counsel MD in Great Britain (discipling) and I continue my internet teaching. Continue to pray for him as he misses his two sons in Thailand and is very distressed that his wife is wanting a divorce (apparently to find a new husband with money/security). I am also discipling BC whose Thai wife died in July. He is a very young Christian.

In Khon Kaen, I still look out for Nari, a Thai Christian who just celebrated her 81st birthday! We went to the flower show in town. (See picture) My internet English teaching will resume toward the end of January. The curriculum incorporates Bible stories about Jesus’ works.

I am growing in the Lord. I have joined Warrior Notes School of Ministry with Kevin Zadai. I am gaining new insights. I recommend anything he has on YouTube. (just search on YouTube for Kevin Zadai—there is a storehouse of teaching there.) I have joined an Intercessory Prayer Group online praying for America and the election, etc. We meet 5 days a week for an hour or two.

My health remains good and I feel good. Hieng and family are kept busy: there are more opportunities to sell baked goods at the university. Hot is in his last semester of vocational college and seems to be thriving. Their health is good. Covid has emerged again in Thailand. We have 2 suspected cases in Khon Kaen but more than 500 among the illegal Burmese working at a seaside shrimp market. Restrictions here are not bad, just normal Covid precautions.

I have found a new church. Bee, the widow of the Canadian, and her two children came with me once and promise to come again. This is the church that was used as the funeral home (Khon Kaen has no funeral home as the Buddhist temples are usually used.) Bee was awash with sadness after visiting the church after so many years. But she promises to return.

Two wonderful things have happened. 1) Through FB, I was able to contact a young Christian man I helped when I was a nurse at a local hospital in PA. He has started to share some of the difficulties in his life and as he considers me an ‘angel’, I can speak into his life. 2) About 30 years ago, I reneged on a promise to a dying friend to care for her two children. One has recently found me on FB, and we are starting to correspond. She has forgiven me for abandoning her. I haven’t heard from her brother yet, and she doesn’t have his contact info.

Blessings to you this year....may God restore doubly all that you have lost in this last year and give you the best He has for you this new year.

- Karen

