



Missionary Musings

Karen Welker
Thailand

JUNE 2021

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all who have been praying for me during this transition. (Don't stop; it isn't over yet!)

God has been so good to me. It was extremely difficult to leave Thailand—especially a month before I intended. My family there helped tremendously. In closing up my house, packing up to return to America (a thing I never dreamt I would do) was like reviewing my entire life. It was as if I had died and was cleaning up after myself. I was dying to Thailand and dying to my plans to live there until I saw Jesus face to face. I felt constrained to leave earlier than planned. I left April 30 and arrived 40 hours later in DC, and May 1 in North Carolina.

On May 7, I was in Wheeling, WV, saying good-bye to my older half sister. She died within 2 hours of my arrival; she was waiting for me. After the funeral, I went to NE OH where friends gifted me with a wonderful 2007 Honda Accord. (The Lord knows I have always wanted a Honda.) After spending time with them, I went to Kentucky, visiting a high school friend who loves the Lord, then on to WV where I was able to see some of my relatives and friends. I returned to NC on the 22nd. I now have a NC driver's license, health insurance and car registration.

The transition has been rough emotionally. My life has changed; I have been given a great gift. How often do people get to really start over again? (Maybe you have dreamed of that, but it isn't always what you thought it would be.) Often I feel like a 12 year old who has to be taught the proper way to do so many everyday things that adults already know. When I look in the mirror now, I sometimes wonder who is looking back at me. Reverse cultural shock is a rollercoaster with waves of confusion and wanting the familiar (Thailand).

Do I know what I am doing yet? God hasn't spoken yet. But He will. And I pray I will listen better to His voice as I have tried to follow Him this far. God has been so gracious to lead me this far.

I have found a wonderful church in NC and I would like to be a part of it as I believe revival is coming. I have just visited Globe (June 15) and have discussed some ways I might be able to help as a nurse. (It would be via internet.) The department would be part of member care but its function and scope have yet to be determined. But it is not full time nor paid.

I am still living in NC but was on the road from May 7-22 (WV, OH, and KY) and again June 15 through July ?? (FL, 4 more cities with family/friends). I should be back in NC by July 21 so I can keep my hearing aid appointment at Costco in Winston-Salem. But, if possible, I would like to attend the Dawsonville, GA revival before I go back to NC.

I do have a working phone now, 336 981 7191. It took more than 2 weeks to get my Thai phone functional in America. My mailing address is PO Box 998, Moravian Falls, NC 28654; email address is karengwelker@gmail.com.

Prayer requests:

- 1) That I will hear God's voice clearly and correctly so I know what steps to take next.
- 2) My home in Thailand to be sold.
- 3) My Thai family to know Jesus.
- 4) That I will be patient as I wait upon the Lord.

- Karen



My great nieces and I
with my car