



Missionary Musings

KAREN WELKER | JANUARY 2022

What a difference a year makes....365 little days! I can see God's hand in it now, but 2021 was the most difficult year of my life. Synopsis: Jan: God to Karen "Would you be willing to move?" February: God through African sister (AS): "Leave Thailand, return to USA." March: God through AS: "Leave sooner than July." April: God: "Leave as soon as possible, flee!" God was stressing through AS what I had been feeling, but not wanting to acknowledge. May through August: Getting reacquainted with USA, learning about health insurance, car registration, driver's licenses, phone setup. September through December: Setting up housekeeping in Pensacola, learning to love cleaning and gardening.

But, God has been faithful. I remain healthy. I am thankful for all the folks who have gifted me with kind words of encouragement (the most important), household items, clothes, a car, financial support and of course, prayers which have carried me through many early dark days. I am thankful to have a place to live and work to do. I am enjoying spending holiday time with my sister and her family. I am thankful for renewed friendships with so many. I still keep in touch with a few friends in Thailand and MD in England. Continue to pray for my family's salvation and that MD will continue to follow the Lord.

I get to touch the lives of people who are in transition when they stay at the Global Launch Center. I have found my church home, Charity Chapel, in Pensacola. I am volunteering with the projection team (which is a lot more involved than I anticipated). My list of friends continues to grow through serving them and praying for them. Most are in transition, a situation I have come to understand intimately.

Transition can take one of two distinct paths. One is when a person is excited and looks forward to change, having some idea of what to expect, usually a very welcome change. The second is when the change is unexpected and/or unwanted, when the future is very unclear. It is like walking off a cliff. Events like Kentucky tornadoes, widowhood, or following the Lord can fall into this category. It is when you feel your life has been torn from you....and you are no longer in Kansas, Dorothy.

I struggled last year with accepting God's plan for my life: In Thailand, I had everything planned for, including my death. But God, in His wisdom, has other plans for me. I am now enjoying living and working at the Center. I have promised 2 years at the Center, but I trust God for my future beyond. I'm sure God is pleased that after the decades of being His child, I am now trusting Him more fully. (I'm not proud that it has taken me this long.)

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement. I am getting to know stores and products. The weather remains my biggest adjustment.

Some have asked about a mailing address. It is : 8590 Highway 98W, Pensacola, FL 32506. I do get all my mail there as the Center mail box is less secure. You could put "personal" on the envelope if you prefer but there really is no problem. I have been slow in responding because I am still trying to "get in the groove."

May God bless you abundantly with health and joy in 2022. Thank you for your faithful support.

- Karen