

THE NICKELL FAMILY

Missionaries to Thailand



March/April 2024

Sending Church

First Baptist Church
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To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Acts 26:18

Prayer Requests

- Approval for student visa
- Learn the Thai language
- Souls to be saved and spiritual growth for believers in Cha-Am
- Discipleship with Leo
- Laborers for God's Harvest

Dear Pastors and Praying Friends,

These last two months have been filled with new experiences, new ministry opportunities, new prayer needs, and, therefore, dependence on our God. We had hopes and expectations to already have had started attending classes at a Thai language school. This has been and remains to be a primary focus of ours. Unfortunately, our application for our student visa was rejected for pickup from the Thai embassy in Singapore for unknown reasons. Due to this and our tourist visa ending at the end of April, we made the drive to the Cambodian border in order that we might cross into Cambodia, and then cross back into Thailand to be granted another 30 days before acquiring our student visa. **We are grateful to many of you dear saints who were faithful to pray towards this need. God graciously gave us traveling mercies in the total 12 hours of driving to Cambodia and back, as well as clear guidance at the border. Please continue to pray as the language school now begins the process so that we may receive our student visa from the Thai embassy in Laos by the end of this month.**

The celebration of the Thai new year is an event that occurred during the month of April and is actually recognized for about a week's time. This leads the majority of Thai people to travel back to their hometown to celebrate. Because of this, our weekly ministry of teaching English was put on hold for a few weeks in April. **This gave us more opportunity to study the Thai language for ourselves. While we are not yet enrolled in a Thai language classroom, we are able to watch a number of videos both on YouTube or live on Google Meet to receive lessons.**

In my previous letter, I shared how the Lord had granted us a number of ministry opportunities here in Cha-Am. I am very excited to add in this update yet another opportunity to serve Him. A young man named Leo attends the church here in Cha-Am. He is saved and was recently baptized. He and his Thai mother moved here from Singapore awhile back, which is where his father is from. Because of this, Leo speaks very fluent English, as well as Thai. He is a blessing to get to know better as there is not the common, current language barrier between us as I have with others in our area. Not only do we have the ability to fellowship with each other because of this, but there is also an open door of ministry. **The Lord has graciously given me the responsibility of taking Leo through a discipleship course. I truly believe the Lord has shown His favor on me by allowing me this stewardship at such an early point of our ministry. Psalm 118:23 - "This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes." Please pray that Leo will take what the Bible teaches, apply it to his own life, and grow in the knowledge and grace of our Lord.**

Champion and Emmitt have been doing well in school. Champion enjoys reading and does very well. He even helps read the Proverbs as we do our daily, family devotions. Emmitt is learning to write and has good penmanship. Autumn has become very chatty and will soon begin forming sentences, I believe. Katrina does a fantastic job balancing both home life and ministry. **Please pray for our health as we have a wave of COVID spreading through our community. A number of people in the church have it, including Katrina and Champion at this moment.** Autumn and I seemed to have gone through it a few days ago.

Please continue to pray for the spiritual need here in Thailand. So many are without hope, trusting in false gods and in their living a moral life. Pray that more Christians will answer the call to come to Thailand, proclaim the Gospel, and plant churches. We have met a number of good missionaries here who are faithfully laboring, but there is still a great need. **As we drove the six hours through Thailand to arrive at the Cambodian border, it became obvious to me that I did not see one "Christian" church our entire time traveling. Will you please prayerfully consider whether God might be calling you to come and labor among the Thai people?**

In Christ,
The Nickell Family - Jordan, Katrina, Champion, Emmitt, & Autumn