

Maraats in Thailand

June 2019



Dear Faithful Partners and Friends,

“Rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thess. 5:16-17 KJV). God’s will for his children is for them to be joyful, prayerful and thankful in everything and in all circumstances. How can believers grow in this attitude and practice? We can, and we will in Christ Jesus as this is God’s will for us. Through Christ we can do all things. May we learn to be humble and yield daily to our master, the Lord Jesus Christ!

In our previous newsletter, we asked everyone to pray for our plan to open a new ministry. Indeed, God answered many prayers. We now have a new ministry at Banthi Town. It is 25 minutes’ drive from where we live. Through the efforts of some of our Thai members, we found a spacious three-storey building along the highway in Banthi Town. House of Grace English Center was inaugurated December 29, 2018. During the opening, there were around 75 individuals (mostly Buddhists) who were present. We prepared lots of food, gave out gifts, sang Christmas songs, and explained the true



meaning of Christmas to everyone. We are praying that God will use House of Grace English Center as a bridge so we can connect and build relationships with many Thai Buddhists in Banthi Town. As relationships are built, we will then share the gospel with parents and students. All the people of Banthi are Buddhists for centuries. Thai Buddhists are so content in their Buddhism which makes them resistant to the gospel. They do not want to change! Because of this, born-again Christians are still less than 1 percent (.5) of the 69 million population of Thailand. We covet your prayers as we endeavor to reach Thai Buddhists.

February 2019, Chiang Mai Grace Church celebrated her 5th founding anniversary. We invited as our guest speaker, a Thai Pastor and a leader for Campus Crusade for Christ in Thailand. Before he preached his sermon, he gave his conversion testimony. Formerly, he and his parents were very devout Buddhists. Pastor Nuu came to know the Lord Jesus during his second year in one of the universities in Chiang Mai. When his mother and family heard that he became a Christian, his mother would not speak with him for two years after his conversion. He was an outcast for a few years, but he continued to grow in his relationship with the Lord Jesus. After four years, one of his siblings came to know the Lord Jesus as Savior, followed by his mother. What a powerful testimony!

March 2019, Genesis was invited to speak at the graduations of TCM-Philippines Bible Schools in Ozamiz and Tagum. There were 24 men and women who graduated in IGBI Ozamiz and 11 individuals in IGBI Tagum. Praise God that the 35 graduates have applied to TCM-Philippines to serve the Lord in the churches as pastors, in Christian education and evangelism. While in the Philippines, Genesis traveled by boat, airplanes and cars. He also was given the privilege of preaching in Cebu City Church, a church started by the late Joseph Watkins, TCM missionary to Philippines for more than two decades. There are over 500 Grace churches now in the Philippines but still there are so many lost souls that need the gospel. Philippines has 109 million people of which 86 percent are Roman Catholics. Around 11 million are Muslims. Born again Christians in the Philippines still have a big responsibility of bringing the gospel to unsaved millions of Filipinos. Please pray that TCM-Philippines leaders and churches will continue to have a vision for evangelism and planting churches. ‘Where there is no vision, the people perish...’ (Prov. 29:18 KJV).

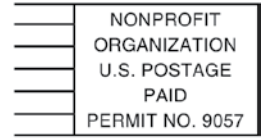
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Maraat UPDATE



May 2019, Genesis and I went to America for a period of over three weeks. Thanks to Ben and Joyce Anderson who came to Thailand to stay with Josiah while we were gone. We are thankful that after six years, Genesis finally finished his Master of Arts with honors (Cum Laude) at Cornerstone University, while doing church planting in Thailand. We went for his graduation at Cornerstone University main campus in Grand Rapids, Michigan on May 10.

In addition, Andrea graduated with her Bachelor of Secondary Education in Biology at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan on May 18. God has opened the door for Andrea to teach Biology at a Christian International School in Seoul, South Korea. She is still in the USA, as she will attend a seminar in Memphis in preparation for her teaching position. On July 4, she will return to Thailand and by the end of July she will go to Seoul to begin in her new job. We would appreciate prayers for Andrea. Please pray for wisdom, good health in a new environment, and that she can find a good church for worship and fellowship.



Also, we ask you to pray for Josiah. Please pray that God grants him strength in his inner man, a clear path to follow in the future, and above all, to understand God's purpose for his life.

Pray for Genesis and me for God to give us wisdom, guidance and clear direction. Pray for continued courage and strength to share the gospel and for our new ministry in Banthi town. Please pray for our Thai church members to have courage to share the gospel to their fellow Thais.

Beloved, thank you for standing behind us in praying and giving. Your partnership plays a vital role in the work we are doing in Thailand. There are millions of unreached people who need to hear the gospel. May God us find us faithful!

Your co-laborers in the gospel,

Genesis, Verna, Andrea and Josiah Maraas (Romans 1:16)

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