

# The Fosters' Prayer Network

February 2018

Greetings Dear Friends,

This is our first of, Lord willing, many prayer letter updates for Andrea & I as we are currently nearing the end of the application process to serve God as full-time missionaries. This is our opportunity to express to you how God is working in our lives, and how God is calling us to work in the lives of others.

## Receiving A Call

While we were still on our short-term mission trip to Thailand and Cambodia in 2014, Andrea and I knew what we were being called to do. We saw wonderful people with great needs. Two countries with many cultures in desperate need of the gospel. Hill tribes driven out by their home countries and into Thailand, where they cannot be citizens. Scattered immigrant families resulting in orphanages being asked to take care of their children. The Christian leaders, who are few and stretched very thin, are still in need of both help and encouragement. Hope and help is what God can provide through those who are willing to serve Him.

## The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV) "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

## The Process

We have partnered with our sending church, First Baptist Church of Richland WA, where we have been attending as a family since 2007, and where David also attended for 20 years prior. They have a long track record of successfully sending and supporting missionaries throughout the world.

We are currently in the final phase of the application process with ABWE, requiring us to attend the New Missionary Candidate Orientation in March.



Andrea, David, Karen, and our newest addition, Sarah

Upon acceptance by ABWE, and a determination of our field of ministry, we would then begin the process of training, as well as raising prayer and financial support.

## Prayer Requests

We are stepping out, in faith, to let God direct us. **Pray that we might have wisdom and discernment in following His path, and that we will clearly recognize and embrace His will along the way.**

This step of faith will undoubtedly bring spiritual attacks to divide us and bring fear and doubt to what God has already conquered. **Pray for strength and unity in our family and our marriage, and for a steadied heart and vision for God's purpose in our lives.**

## Important Dates

**March 5-12** - We will be attending the ABWE New Missionary Candidate Orientation in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

## Contact Info

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## Our Testimonies

### David

In 1976, during a vacation bible school program at our church, Paul Everett and his dummy Wally showed me that I was a sinner, and that only by accepting Jesus' payment for my sin would I be set free from a spiritual and eternal death and separation from God. I am blessed and most fortunate to have been set apart by God at the age of 6, to be spared the troubles that I would have surely faced in high school and college without the knowledge of what God sacrificed for me. This thought has driven me towards children's, youth, and young adult ministry for much of the last 20 years.

\*We have both been baptized as a declaration of our faith before God and our church congregation

## Our Family and Ministry Background

Immediately after we were married in 1998, we sought out a local church near Irvine, California with an AWANA youth program, knowing then that it would be a great indicator of the doctrine and focus of the church. The next Sunday we discovered our new church home at Woodbridge Community Church, where we served as AWANA leaders while also serving on the AWANA missionary advisory board for the Southland area. While neither having, nor expecting any children of our own, we thrived on the enjoyment of teaching and working with children.

In 2007 we relocated to David's home town and became active members in the church he grew up in, at the First Baptist Church of Richland WA.

In 2004, we welcomed our first daughter, **Karen**. Since she was 6 years old, she has expressed a desire to be a missionary and to share the good news of salvation to children who do not know God. This verbal expression was instrumental in leading to the three of us joining a short-term missions trip to Thailand and Cambodia in 2014, where we knew immediately that God was planting a seed for missionary ministry.

In 2012, David was in New Haven, Connecticut for work training when the school shooting happened at Sandy Hook Elementary. David answered the Holy Spirit's call to "go", and soon found himself working with the Red Cross and first responders. This was a wakeup call to David that those things had and were going to change in his life. While David's employment has brought a greater focus on adult ministry opportunities, Andrea has continued to serve in AWANA, where Karen has begun to serve as well.

We returned to both Thailand and Cambodia in 2016. Andrea was ill during the trip, but we were both able to work with the Child and Family Prison Ministry orphanage (CFPM) in Chiang Rai and confirm with each other our passion for children and their need for the gospel. Oh, how God blesses us! We soon found out that Andrea's illness was at least partly due to her being pregnant with our second daughter.

**Sarah** was born in 2017.

We cannot count the many ways that God has blessed us, and how He has delivered us through difficult times. We have realized through it all, we have always been sheltered by the eternal security we have through Christ, and we have been surrounded by fellow believers. The people of Southeast Asia, however, are largely without hope. Barely 1% of the population consider themselves to be Christians. We have been called to reach out to these people with the gospel, and to encourage and support the ministries and local Christians there.

### Andrea

I was saved while attending a Good News Club when I was 8 years old. I don't remember exactly what happened, but as I was growing up I knew that I was saved. As a teenager, my eternal security was especially important to me as I went through a time of serious depression, even coming close to suicide. However, knowing that Christ was in me and that He loved me kept me alive and made it possible for me to be delivered from such a low point. I grew up without any spiritual growth or nurturing, but always knowing there was more that I needed. When my husband and I were married, our biggest commitment to each other was to make Christ the center of our marriage. It was during that time that I recommitted my life to Christ and began to learn what living for Him really means.