

The Fosters' Prayer Network

April 2018

Greetings Dear Friends,

On March 12th, 2018, we were officially accepted by ABWE to be full-time missionaries to Thailand. WOW! We will now be serving as pre-field missionaries while we partner with churches and individuals for both prayer and financial support. This is the beginning of a new life, set apart by God for missions. We are excited for the experience as we share the gospel with the Thai people.

Where We Are Going

Our target location is Sawang Daen Din in Northeastern Thailand. This area is home to one of the largest unreached people groups in the region. Inexplicably and inexcusably, few go to this region even though Thailand openly offers travel visas for church planters. Buddhism and Animism are the popular religions of the area, though neither provide any hope for this lost nation.

Why We Are Going

Romans 10:13-14 for "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Important Dates

April 22nd - We will be officially presented to our sending church as ABWE missionaries to Thailand.

July 14-21 – Our entire family will be attending the Missions Enrichment Conference at ABWE headquarters in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Contact Info

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

When We Are Going & The Process

In order to leave for Thailand, we will need to raise 100% of our monthly support, as well as complete several training classes for preparation. While we would say that we are ready to go now, God is still preparing us and our mission field, as well as those who will partner with us. Our goal is to be fully funded and trained by July 2019, and leave for Thailand shortly afterwards. This is within the 12 to 18 month time period the average missionary takes to reach the field.

Prayer Requests

We have many responsibilities in preparation for the field, including raising support and training. **Pray for wisdom and discernment in following His path, and that we will clearly recognize and embrace His will along the way.**

This step of faith has already brought 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 our missions ministry in God's plan.**

Giving Information

The best and fastest way to give to our ministry is directly through ABWE, which can be done through their website at ABWE.org/give, or you can call them at **800-901-2293**.

Our ABWE account is #0170581

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.