

Fosters On A Mission

October 2018

Greetings Dear Friends,

We thank you for your prayers and encouragement as we press on towards cross-cultural ministry in Thailand.

Ministry Update

We continue to meet with pastors, churches, and individuals to share our ministry and needs for prayer and financial support. As we pray with and for these people, God is teaching us how to build relationships and encourage others in the faith.

Mark 12:30-31 NKJV

'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.

Philippians 2:3-4 NKJV

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Our friend, Patrick, passed away suddenly this month. We were able to attend his memorial service and truly celebrate a life that consistently displayed the fruits of the spirit. Even an unsaved person would describe Patrick with the words: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. **Pray for his wife Laurie as she grieves this loss.**

Continue to pray for the needs of the unreached people in Thailand who need the gospel message.

On page 2, we share Dave's experience in a crisis situation, and how God used it.



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

Support Status

The regular monthly support that is coming in is 15% of the support level needed before we are able to move to the field. We received some God Inspired one-time gifts this month towards our ministry. **Pray with us for a God Inspired increase in our regular monthly support.**

The best support you can give us is to participate in our newsletter and partner with us in prayer. Also, **prayerfully ask God if he wants you to support us financially.** God will call our financial partners, as he already has.

Important Dates

November 4th – A supporting church's Missions Sunday service.

November 18th – Presenting our ministry to Highland Hill Community Church in Tacoma, WA

November 26th – Karen's Birthday (14)

Contact Info

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A Step Towards Missions: Part Six

A series during our pre-field development to explore and present the path towards our ministry as missionaries to Thailand.

The year is 2012. Karen has been regularly telling people that she wants to be a missionary, "because telling others about Jesus is the most important thing." Andrea and I are prayerfully considering how we can encourage this. And, unknown to us at the time, a few people have started praying for our family to be called to missions.

December 2012, work sent me across the country for some very important training on fire alarm panels at Honeywell in New Haven, Connecticut. I could write three chapters of a book on the many ways Satan tried to prevent this trip from happening, and countless more on how God orchestrated and used it. However, I will focus now on that Friday, December 14th.

The final training exam was supposed to take 6 hours. Despite having slept less than 7 hours in total for that week, I was able to complete my exam in 90 minutes. When I handed my exam over to the instructor, he said, "Oh Dave, don't give up now." I tried to assure him that I had completed it, then headed for their cafeteria.

News then broke that a school shooting had happened at Sandy Hook Elementary school in Newtown, only 20 miles away from where I was. After processing a bit of the immediate grief and sorrow of the news, I bowed my head to ask God to intervene in this tragedy. It was that moment that the Holy Spirit said, "Go!" This directive reminds me now of when my dad would say something that, by tone, was firm, precise, and unquestionable. Without hesitation, I left the training facility and drove towards Newtown, not even heeding the warnings on the radio to avoid the area as police searched for suspects and tried to secure the area.

After calling Andrea and confirming God's calling to go, I prayed for direction on what to do when I arrived. I will admit, there were a few times that I drove around a couple of signs for "road closed to thru traffic". After all, I wasn't called to go **THROUGH** Newtown, but to go **TO** Newtown.

I arrived one block away from the school at a small business area before the first news vans were in town, and few police vehicles were there. Following God's direction, I simply walked from one business to another, praying with patrons and staff each step of the way. I was at a business that cuts hair for kids when the news came through that 20 children and 6 staff had been killed by a single shooter, 20-year-old Adam Lanza, who had killed his mother before going to the school. Surrounded by several digital photo frames that were rotating images of the 5 and 6-year-old customers who were now victims was incredibly emotional as I thought of my daughter at home who was nearly the same age. I finished praying with people there and walked across the street to a church to pray for further direction.

As I prayed for the victims, their families, the community, and emergency responders, the American Red Cross arrived at the church to set up a support center for these very people I was praying for. I quickly found myself working with the Red Cross as a spontaneous volunteer, where I was able to provide food and shelter, but more importantly pray with and share God's love with these people in the midst of a crisis.

I am forever changed by both the events of that week in Newtown, and the privilege of following God's calling to "Go." When the Red Cross offered me a full-time job to go to these types of crisis situations, I was initially excited. However, as an official employee of the Red Cross, I would not be allowed to pray with, share the bible, or share the knowledge of God's love with others. I realized then that this was not the type of care and help that God was calling me to do.

So many people were praying for Andrea and I back home while we were following God's calling. Little did we realize how many would continue to pray for us, as God worked in other ways when I returned home.

We look forward to sharing what God did next in our steps toward cross-cultural missions ministry.

We ask our friends to read the following passages for an insight into our calling, but even more importantly, a look at God's abundant power and amazing grace: 1 Peter 3:13-17, 2 Timothy 2:1-26, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. If you do not have a Bible, you can google search each of these passages for easy access.