

Fosters On A Mission

November 2018

Greetings Dear Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving! We all have plenty to be happy for, including a loving God who sent His son to be the sacrifice for our sins.

Ministry Update

What an incredible blessing it was to share our ministry with Highland Hill Community Church in Tacoma, Washington. We made the weekend trip with Dave's parents and were able to spend some time with his cousin's family, Kevin and Darcy Foster. We shared with everyone how God has called all of us to share the gospel in The Great Commission, the only difference for Andrea and I is that He has called us to specifically do it cross-culturally.

Their pastor, Jim Godwin, was David's pastor in the 1980's and instrumental in Dave's early spiritual development. He shared this thought in the weekly bulletin:

Did you know that it was a Jew who brought the Gospel to Rome; a Roman who took it to France; a Frenchman who too it to Scandinavia; a Scotsman who evangelized Ireland; and an Irishman in turn made the missionary conquest of Scotland. No people have ever received the Gospel except at the hands of an alien to that country.

David and Andrea Foster want to be a couple of those "aliens" that helps to take the Gospel to Thailand . . . a strong Buddhist country.

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

At 16 months now, Sarah has become a great distraction to everything that does not involve her. We have started on a plan to keep her occupied so we can focus more time on support raising. **Pray for us as we seek to better manage our time and family.**

On page 2, we share our experience in Thailand, and how God has used it.



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

Support Status

The regular monthly support that is coming in is 17% of the support level needed before we are able to move to the field. We received more God Inspired one-time gifts this month, and several people are praying how God might lead them to support 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 continue to call our financial partners, as he already has.

Important Dates

December 8th – Our church's mission committee meeting

December 25th – We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ

December 31st – David's Birthday

Contact Info

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A Step Towards Missions: Part Seven

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

In 2014 and 2016, we were blessed with the opportunity to go to both Thailand and Cambodia with our church's short-term mission teams. The focus of these teams is to aid churches and ministries while exposing the team members to mission ministry both at home and abroad.

We approached our daughter Karen, who was 9-years-old at the time, with the option of either going to Disneyland for her first time or going to Thailand with the mission team to share the Gospel. We were not able to do both, and God definitely used our daughter's heart to push our focus towards ministry. She did not hesitate to choose Thailand. Can you imagine a 9-year-old kid choosing the mission field over Disneyland? She said what she had been saying for the last three years . . . "sharing Jesus with others is the most important thing."

The three of us spent the next six months, with our team, preparing our hearts and minds for our first adventure overseas.

The first week of our trip was in Mae Hong Son, in Northwest Thailand. Though the humidity in August was uncomfortably high and the rains were more than we are used to in the high desert part of Washington state, we were so at peace there. The people are so gentle and friendly. The simple-ness of that town of about 7,000 people was quite soothing. Andrea and I talked about the serenity of being exactly where God wanted us to be, doing exactly what He had called us to do.

Our team taught English classes to children and young adults at the church during that week, and used the opportunity to share our culture and our faith in Jesus. The church pastor, Don, shared sermons and led the praise music with his guitar. David and Todd presented a hilarious skit about the similar sounding words banana and bandana that was extremely well received, resulting in David being called "Banana Dave" during our stay.

This week we were also exposed to the mostly unreached hill-tribes in the area. These are all very beautiful, though very different people, with diverse cultures, styles, and languages. The small church in Mae Hong Son has a such a great mission field in their area, but so few people to reach them. Thailand even has a church planting visa program, but yet somehow the laborers are still few. This thought has burdened our hearts for the people of Thailand.

We look forward to sharing what God did next in Cambodia 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: John 3:1-21, and Galatians 5:1-26. If you do not have a Bible, you can google search each of these passages for easy access.

Did You Know?

Thailand's original name, *Sukothai*, means "Dawn of Happiness"

The Mae Hong Son Loop, a popular route for travelers to explore the province, is 370 miles with 1,864 curves

The old name of Mae Hong Son was 'Mae Rong Son' which means 'a place suitable for elephant warfare training'

In the 19th Century, the Thai Royal family hired Shan people to train elephants in Mae Hong Son

Most of the Thai peoples live in villages where they can grow rice on their own land

The seven main hill-tribes of northern Thailand are: Karen (including the Paduang subgroup, or Long-Neck), Hmong (or Meo), Lahu, Akha, Mien (or Yao), Lisu, and the Lawa

The Khon Isan people of Northeastern Thailand usually refers to the broader sense of everyone who comes from the 20 northeastern provinces of Thailand

In the narrower sense the Khon Isan refers only to the ethnic Lao whose identity distinctly differs from both the Laotians of Laos and the Thais of Central Thailand

While some Italian Canadians use spoons to roll their pasta onto a fork, Thais use their forks to push the food onto the spoon (Italians would never use a spoon with pasta unless it had a broth)