



The Randy Ashcraft Family

Missionaries in Southeast Asia



February 2023

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Southeast Asia! Winter is beginning to fade here and the days are getting hotter and hotter. In Thailand, we have three seasons: winter, summer, and monsoon. Of course, our winter means our temperatures will be between 70 and 90 degrees. And you don't want to hear about our summer temperatures! Truth be told, after spending 30 years in the desert in Mexico, I love the weather here, especially the rainy season. My wife misses the winters more than I do and is always jealous of the snow pictures she sees on social media.

LOOKING BACK AT FEBRUARY

Due to some safety issues, we were forced to cancel our Valentine's Day banquet that we had planned with the refugees. Additionally, there were 2 huge Indian weddings at 2 beach resorts and a lot of the refugees were able to find work there as cooks and waiters. These weddings were for the daughters of Indian billionaires who hosted three day weddings for them. It's heartbreaking to witness such opulent wealth in the same place as so much abject poverty. The people we are ministering to literally live off of the leftovers from these wedding feasts. I encourage the refugees by reminding them that at any moment we will all participate in our own wedding feast. The Bridegroom is coming and we are all invited to come and dine.

During the month of February, I preached 10 different messages with an emphasis on the Bible being the Word of God. I also taught 4 men's Bible studies that were 2 hours each, finishing up the book of Genesis and making it through the first two chapters of Exodus. Additionally, my wife taught 4 ladies Bible studies focusing on the presence of God in their lives. We had two churches raise our support and one church in Mexico took us on for \$100 a month. Gloria a Dios!

Our two boys still at home, were able to participate in a missionary kid's camp which was a blessing to them. And my wife and I were able to sneak in a three-day vacation which was a blessing to us!

LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH

Please pray about ...

On March 16th, I will need to go to Thai Immigration to do what is called a **90-day report**. Every three months, we have to appear in person and fill out some forms as to where we are and what we are doing. It's always a hassle and kills a day but it's all a part of living on the foreign field. Later in March or early April, we will go for our **visa renewal**. The government can give us a year, 6 months, or just 3 months. We are praying they give us at least 6 months this time. It's totally up to them on the day we go as to how things turn out.

Leading up to Easter, I am **preaching a series of sermons on what defines us as Baptists**. I will continue the **men's Bible study through the book of Exodus** and my wife will continue her **ladies Bible study** as well. Our **three older children** are doing well in college in the States. And we sure do miss them! Please pray for them as they are **in mid-terms now** and will be finishing up their school year at the end of April.

February was an extremely productive month, and we praise the Lord that through our partnership with you, we have been able to see the fruits of our labor. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to share the Good News on your behalf on the foreign field.

In His Service,
Randy and Gwendolyn Ashcraft
and Family

1 Thessalonians 3:1 - "...Brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you ..."

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