



# The Randy Ashcraft Family

## Missionaries in Southeast Asia



### March 2026

Dear Friends,

Wow! The last few weeks have been a whirlwind! I will try to touch on the main events and then move on to future plans. In February, we made a quick trip back to the States due to visa issues. Without getting into the weeds too much, we needed to apply for a pre-approved tourist visa in order to be able to get a 30-day extension added to the end of it. Normally, we can just get a 60-day visa on arrival and add a 30-day extension, but immigration policy changed on January 1st and we are no longer able to do that. And I feel like I probably lost about half of you there because I got too deep in the weeds! Haha. More about this later.

**We are blessed to have a sending church that is so involved in our ministry.** This past week, our Pastor visited us for the second time in 6 years. We are literally on the other side of the world and most missionaries here have never had a visit from their pastor, and some have been here for more than 30 years. Pastor Andrew Wolfenbarger and his wife, Amy, spent four days with us. We talked about family and ministry. On Tuesday, we visited a family that has converted from Islam. And on Wednesday night, the Pakistani ministry was thrilled to have him preach! We were sad to see them go but are so thankful for the time they spent with us.

**MINISTRY NEED:** Since 2009, my family and I have been in the country of Thailand using multiple types of visas. We have been here as tourists, and then as a teacher. After that as volunteers, and then under a special Covid visa. After that, a student visa, and then back to the volunteer visa. And now, tourist visas again. I was actually approved for a missionary visa but that approval was denied when they found out that I would be working with Muslims. Later, another opportunity arose where I again could apply for a missionary visa, but that idea was shot down because of the fact that our ministry is focused on reaching Pakistani refugees and not Thai citizens. We have done our best to keep the cost low and to be here as much as possible. But after more than 15 years of kicking the can down the road, the time has come to do something about this that will give us the freedom to serve in Thailand without constantly bending the rules and making endless

trips in and out of the country. My wife and I are both now over the age of 50. This means that we qualify to apply for what is called a Non-O Longterm Stay Visa. This is commonly referred to as the Retirement Visa. This would be renewed annually at a cost of about \$70 for each of us. But here is the catch: Thailand is not interested in having a bunch of poor, elderly people move into their country. The government wants assurances that the retired people that move here will not become a burden on their economy. So, there is a requirement that anyone receiving a retirement visa must have an account in their name in Thailand with an 800,000 baht balance (approximately \$25,000). The government does not take this money, but they need proof that the money is there in case the retired person needs it. Additionally, I will need an account in Gwendolyn's name with \$25,000 in it as well. After spending time in counsel with my Pastor and after dealing with this for so long, we have decided to raise the \$50,000 and get this taken care of once and for all. I am 53 years old now, and if the Lord tarries, I hope to be able to be in the most productive time of our ministry over the next 15 years or so. This just needs to be done.

**Here's the plan:** We are returning to the US in May. We have one son graduating from high school in May, our middle child is getting married in June, and our oldest son and his wife are expecting our first grandbaby in July. I will make as many appointments as possible during this time and save up our love offerings and try to raise the \$50,000. We will return to Thailand as soon as we have those funds secured and are able to get our retirement visa. If you are able to help with this need, write VISA on the memo line of the check or contact me for more information. We need the funds by August 1st.

Please pray for us as we continue to reach the lost for Christ. And again, thank you for your faithful prayers and support.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR...**

*Our visits into Pakistani homes  
Persecuted Christians in Pakistan and Thailand  
Our Weekly Zoom meetings and in-person meetings*

*- Randy & Gwendolyn Ashcraft*

*II 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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