



The Randy Ashcraft Family

Missionaries in Southeast Asia



April 2026

Dear Friends,

Greetings from sunny, hot, and humid Bangkok, Thailand! And smoggy! This is the hottest time of the year in Southeast Asia. And, at the same time, air quality is at its worst mainly due to the fact that hundreds of thousands of acres of rice fields are being burned by farmers in order to produce more fertile soil. As many of you know, my wife struggles with sinus issues, so last month I bought 2 air purifiers for the house - one for our bedroom and one for the living room. This seems to have helped greatly. Normally by now, she would already have a sinus infection and we would be visiting our local family physician. So, praise the Lord for that!

In my last prayer letter, I shared a **financial need** that we have. Without going into too many details, we needed **\$50,000** in order to **secure the visa that we need for Thailand**. This is technically a retirement visa but after looking into all of our options, this is the best way to keep us here the most amount of time. We have already received \$10,500, getting us **over 20% of the way** there. Besides this, I have also heard from several churches and individuals that have said that they are going to help with this need. Again, this money will not be spent to purchase a visa. It will be deposited to a bank account in our names to guarantee to the Thai government that we would have access to funds if we had an emergency and not be a burden on the Thai people. And to be clear, we have no plan to retire! We are just using a retirement visa as a means to legally enter the country. Please pray that the remaining funds will come in soon as we need all of it before we can apply for the visa in August.

This past Sunday, we celebrated Easter. Our auditorium seats about 110 and we had 160 in the building. We had special music along with our regular worship service, a Bible reading from one of the Pakistani men, and then I preached a sermon titled "He is Risen!" from John 20. After the service, we fed all **160 people** a Pakistani dish that is called beef korma with rice, a side salad, and raita sauce. We then shared dessert - rice pudding and Pakistani chai tea. Our service began at 5 pm and by the time we finished

washing dishes, it was after 10 pm. As most of you know, our ministry is with Pakistani Christian refugees so being able to celebrate Easter and have a meal like that was a very special treat for them. Our next "special" meeting will be Mother's Day on May 10th. It's a very special day for all of the regular reasons but also many of the refugees have been separated from their parents and they never see them again. So, please pray for the challenges our people face.

Last week, we went to Thai Immigration and after a few hours, **we received a 30-day extension added onto our current visa. This will allow us to stay in Thailand until after Mother's Day.** Until then, we will be busy with our Sunday services, Gwendolyn will teach a ladies Bible study every Tuesday, our prayer meeting on Wednesday, our youth meeting on Thursday, and our men's Bible study on Friday. We usually spend Saturday visiting people in their homes and doing discipleship. Please pray the Lord will keep us safe in all of our running around and that Gwendolyn's health will hold out through the worst of the air pollution that we are going through.

Again, I would like to thank all of you for your faithful prayers and support. It's a truly humbling experience to partner with you in reaching the lost here in Southeast Asia.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- *Our visits into Pakistani homes
- *Persecuted Christians in Pakistan and Thailand
- *Our Weekly Zoom meetings and in-person meetings
- *Funds for Retirement Visa
- *Special Mother's Day service
- *Gwendolyn's health
- *Traveling safety

- 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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