



THE NICKELL FAMILY

Missionaries to Thailand



November/December 2024

Sending Church

First Baptist Church
218 West Wall Street
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Pastor Micaiah Stanley
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To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Acts 26:18

Prayer Requests

- Learn the Thai language
- Our home church missions trip group visiting
- Souls to be saved and spiritual growth for believers in Cha-Am
- Laborers for God's Harvest

Dear Pastors and Praying Friends,

It is our hope that you all have had a splendid holiday season these past two months. This, of course, has been our first Thanksgiving and Christmas outside of the United States; and while these times of celebration were different than in past years, we were certainly blessed in gathering with new friends and beginning new traditions. This time of year was made all the more special by Katrina's parents visiting us for a few weeks, specifically over the Thanksgiving week. They blessed us with special gifts from home that we are either unable to find here or is very expensive in Thailand. Our time together was filled with laughter and adventure as we rode both elephants and go-karts and introduced them to the delicious Thai cuisines. During their visit, we were given some news to share giving us an even greater reason to be thankful to the Lord for His goodness. **Lord willing, we will be having our first baby born here in Thailand coming this July/August!** Please keep this baby and Katrina in your prayers and for our family as we make decisions in light of this blessed addition to our family.

The majority of Thai people view Christmas as only an exciting time to celebrate and assume it is only a holiday focused on consuming material wealth. They do not know the true meaning of why we celebrate Christmas. I was given the opportunity to see this firsthand, during our Bible time at the end of our English class ministry in early December. The teaching was on how God sent Jesus to the world to die for our sins. One of the teachers quickly included the fact that that is the reason why we celebrate Christmas - the birth of Jesus. **One of the students, who happened to be visiting for the first time, stated that she had no prior knowledge to this truth and seemed very surprised to learn that the "Western" holiday of Christmas was due to the birth of the Savior.** This lady was only a year older than myself or my wife and yet had never heard this before. Our world is full of people such as this lady, and may we *"look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest."*

For the past three years, there has been a growing evangelistic effort here in Cha-Am during the Christmas season. Church members from the Leemons' first church plant in Sriracha have traveled to Cha-Am, with the intent of ministering to all who might attend our Christmas party at Cha-Am Baptist Church. **This year, we had just over 100 Thai people attend this event where they were given the Gospel.** Please pray that we would see fruit from this work as we follow up on different individuals in the coming days.

We want to thank each of you who happened to send Christmas cards or holiday greetings to our family. It means a great deal that you would remember us during this busy time of the year. **We also want to say how abundantly grateful we are to many of you who sacrificially gave over and above your regular monthly support for us in order that we might have a special Christmas gift. We are humbled and thankful for your goodness towards us. Thank you to all who keep us faithfully in your prayers. We are continually in need of your prayers regarding our language studies.** Due to the holidays, our official language school has been closed for the past three weeks and will be opening up again this coming week as of the writing of this letter. **We are certain that Satan continues to provide temptations in the way of distractions of our language study. Please pray that we will keep the difficult time of language study in its rightful priority rather than be tempted and distracted with additional ministries or hobbies that would occupy that time.**

During this month of January, we are very excited to have our first group from our home church in Iowa to visit us for two weeks. My parents, brother, and sister will be accompanied by our pastor and his wife, along with a young lady who has an interest in foreign missions. Please pray for their travels to be safe and for our time to be sweet and impactful.

In Christ,

The Nickell Family - Jordan, Katrina, Champion, Emmitt, & Autumn