

Update from Daron & Yunae Wilson in Thailand on July 24, 2021



Greetings

Hello there, and greetings from Thailand! Our family is all here together again after quite a while. We're grateful to the Lord for giving all of us safety over our time apart, and then in travel for Daron and Brynne as they made their way back to Thailand. There were a few fits and starts thanks to COVID. The visa process was slower and more complex than usual and travel arrangements were much harder to coordinate. COVID testing, ticket dates, and quarantine accommodations all had to be juggled independently based on different criteria. However, things finally came together, and here we are.

With respect to our general family news, things are going well. Brynne is in Chiang Mai visiting for the summer, and she will return to the US in August. She'll be returning to Oklahoma Baptist University as a sophomore Bio-Chemistry major. Her first year of school was very normal, with the typical ups-and-downs of a freshmen year--making friends, adjusting to managing time and workload, etc. OBU had in person classes so that was a real advantage. She was able to experience a lot of the social aspects of college that many did not. Isabel will be a High School Junior in Chiang Mai this year, with a heavy school load.

Here in Thailand at the end of last year, COVID cases were quite low and the restrictions allowed for some movement and openness (churches could meet, stores were open, etc.) In March, Thailand began experiencing a significant wave of infections and has been progressively locking down. Bangkok and a number of other provinces are in complete lockdown with an evening curfew. Chiang Mai where we live is still without curfew, but church meetings have been restricted again and public gatherings are regulated. Small meetings are open, and so Daron is still able to meet with his Bible reading group.

ABTS

Daron spent the last part of last year helping ABTS to move fully online, as international travel has never really opened up in any way that allows our regular classes to continue. The transition online has gone as well as it could, as most people were already forced to move in that direction even for regular life. As professors, we miss the classroom and face-to-face interaction with

students, but the online format has served well in other ways. Classes are more international now, with students from many countries in the same class at the same time, and that opens up some new avenues for discussion and interaction. We have no idea how long this will continue, since easy international travel (i.e. no COVID tests, no mandatory quarantine, etc.) is probably a long way off. Daron is currently teaching Hermeneutics online and staying quite busy. Online teaching requires a different approach and getting that sorted out is quite a paradigm shift.

Myanmar

We would ask for your prayers for Myanmar. As you may know, the country has been rocked by serious protests due to the interference of the military in the last "open" election. In response, the military cracked down in a particularly brutal way and life in Myanmar for many people has been turned upside down. Daron has had several students in his Hermeneutics class from Myanmar, and at different times they have been unable to participate in class activities due to government enforced internet outages. Several students have been forced to flee their homes due to unrest and violence.

I've enclosed below (as-is) one of the latest updates from a student.

Dear praying friends, Every time I give an update it is always heart breaking. We need your unceasing prayer and help. At this moment people like us who are living in the capital cities are safe but we have to be very aware of our surrounding. Because every day there is an explosion of bomb and shooting in the city. We are to be very careful. But now there are people who are suffering more than us and I want to give update about them. They are in great danger and in need of great help. I was born in chin state, 97% of the chin people are Christian or at least nominal Christian. It is the poorest state in the whole country. Now the military coup are oppressing them with guns. While every cities are suffering alike, Mindat and Matupi Township are the worst. They used big weapons like Launchers, Machine guns and Aircraft. They burnt people's house and even church building. They rapped and murders girls and children. Bodies are found in the yard of houses, near the road and in the sink. So almost

all the people in the town have to flee in the forest and take refuge. Two of our missionaries and their families are a victims of this. The worst thing is the Military continue to chasing them even in the forest. Our people have to run and move to different places. In fact now is raining season, it rain every day. I am thinking where will they stay? What will they eat? As a Pastor shepherd of a small church, it breaks my heart so much. They brought with them a small portion of food but it's been a month they are in the forest, the foods are not enough anymore. Many old people and children are suffering from fatigue and sicknesses. There are at least 40000 refugees in the forest from Mindat Township alone. They are in need of our prayer and support. There is a way to send them food and medicine. It is secret and I cannot mention. As we are preparing to help them, I want to invite you to be with us. I believe now is the most needful time to help the people. God bless Myanmar!!

Not all of Myanmar is like this, but the scale of trouble across the country is far beyond anything most of us have dealt with. What's even worse is that, given the situation, it is exceptionally hard to find ways to get aid to these folks. We'd ask that you'd remember them to the Lord in your prayers.

Prayer Requests

- Brothers and sisters in Myanmar.
- Brynne, as she returns to the US. If the lockdown in Thailand gets worse, we are nervous that her progress home could be delayed or even prevented.
- Pray for our family as we navigate the increasing restrictions and keep seeking to do ministry. So far, the Thai people are bearing up well under the impact of COVID, but there is still a significant cost to the lockdown measures.

As usual, thanks again to all of you, and we pray the Lord's blessings on you.

--The Wilsons

(Daron, Yuna, Brynne, and Isabel)
