

Dear Praying Friends

Our last prayer letter started with the words 'this year has not started as we expected!' and ended with Psalm 31: 14-14, '**But I trust in you, Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hands.**' The last three months have continued very much along the same theme and we appreciate your prayers for us as we seek to live and serve in Bangkok.

Continued COVID realities

We were finally able to return to Bangkok at the end of January and were very glad to be finally back working in a single time zone! However, we have been ping-ponging in and out of isolation all term, due to Thailand's continuing strict COVID measures, with two enforced periods of isolation and virtual school due to being close contacts of other people with COVID. For Johnny, meetings have also continued to be planned in-person then rescheduled, cancelled or moved online throughout the last term.

New City Church has had a surge of COVID cases in the past three months with many members struggling to provide practically for their families when isolation is mandated. Pastor Pramote's family were particularly ill in March and his son admitted to hospital for four days when he developed breathing difficulties. We praise God for his full recovery now, after some very difficult days.

Pray for:

- **wisdom in planning and preparing** for the coming months - it can be tempting to give up trying to plan anything in the current uncertainties!
- **Beth and Josh** facing continued uncertainty over **IGCSE and IB exams**, which start **May 4**. Pray they will be able to focus on revision in the coming weeks and will trust the Lord in all the uncertainties of this exam season .
- **Ann** to be able to sustain quality **teaching and pastoral care** of students in spite of hybrid lessons (some students at home and some in school) and constant uncertainty

about how lessons will be taught each day or even who will be in the class!

- **New City Church** to continue loving one another well. There is a real sense of weariness at the moment as so many people have been ill.
- **Thailand** to move towards COVID recovery and more sustainable measures for coping with cases.
- **Matt** to be able to come back to Thailand for a visit in the summer. After our Christmas experience we are all slightly apprehensive but really want to see him!

New City Church

As well as coping with supporting members with COVID the eldership team of the church are discussing how to move forward post-COVID.

Please pray for:

- people to **return to meeting in-person** without fear
- wisdom in knowing how long to continue **supporting those most affected** by the pandemic
- renewed **vision and commitment** to outreach and discipleship
- the **ability to restart** meals together, Sunday School and other events
- for **Gospel focus**, loving God and others well in the midst of prolonged uncertainties.

Refugees

Kaleel received an unexpected phone call last week to say that he has a ticket to Australia for April 20 through UNHCR and IOM (International Organisation for Migration). Whilst we are sad to say goodbye to our 'adopted' son, we are thrilled at this long awaited answer to prayer and are now helping him to get ready for life in his new home, Adelaide.

Pray for:

- **April 18 Medical**, including a COVID test
- **April 18 Farewell BBQ** at our home
- **April 20 Flight** to Adelaide
- **A Christian community** to welcome and support him in these next transitions.

Unfortunately there has been an administrative hold-up with Sarah and Asef's application due to Asef having previously been a refugee in Norway before they were married. They are still waiting to hear when they will be able to move to Australia.

Pray for:

- **paperwork** to be processed quickly and smoothly between different government offices.
- **peace** as they wait to hear news. It will be particularly painful for them to say goodbye to Kaleel.
- **placement** near Kaleel in Adelaide so that they can continue to build their new lives together.

Langham and City to City

Langham Thailand continues to grow in both the numbers of people joining the training courses and the number of resources available.

After completing New Testament training online in March, the next Langham Preacher Training is planned for May when they will focus on preaching from the Old Testament. Online sessions each Tuesday and Thursday evening for six weeks is a significant commitment, but one that works much better in the context of Bangkok than the previous one week residential courses. Johnny and the team have been really encouraged by the quality of those joining the course, their engagement with the training and their willingness to learn.

One of the goals of Langham is not only to train preachers but also to develop a team of Thai leaders who can run the training events, making this ministry sustainable long-term. The next Training of Trainers will be led by Phil Nicholson from Taiwan in July. God willing, this will also be in-person!

Alongside training and mentoring Thai preachers and Christian leaders, both Langham and City to City are involved in translating and publishing resources for the Thai church. Last week Langham saw the tenth book in the 'Pray, Prepare, Preach' series published. Shortly, City to City hopes to see 'Every Good Endeavour' by Tim Keller published.

Pray for

- **On-going ministry of meeting, mentoring and training Thai believers** in biblical preaching and leadership. Pray that both City and City and Langham Preachers would be used by the Lord to raise up a generation of preachers, leaders and teachers who love the Gospel and are able to correctly handle the Word of God.
- **Literature ministry.** Pray that the books will be well translated so that they are understandable for Thai believers. Pray that these materials would be an encouragement and help to those who read them and that they would reach a wider audience than just those currently involved in the training programmes.

Visitors

For the first time since 2019, we are expecting visitors this summer!

- **June (2 weeks) Alex**, a student at Oak Hill College is hoping to be with us for her cross-cultural placement.
- **July 8-12: Phil Nicholson** will hopefully stay with us during the Training Trainers conference + **several Thai pastors** from outside Bangkok, who are attending the course.
- **July- August: Matt** home for the summer?

It will be lovely to have our home full again! Our landlord needs to do some renovations on our home before these guests arrive and we will need to reorganise spaces post-pandemic to be ready for renewed ministry opportunities in our home. Please pray that the timing of renovations will work and our home will be a blessing to each person as they pass through.

*With our love and thanks for your partnership with us,
Johnny and Ann*