

TIDINGS FROM THAILAND

Karl & Sun Dahlfred - Missionaries to Thailand
scotland edition

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Prayer Points

- Thailand to re-open
- Additional \$1400/month of financial support
- Move from UK to USA. Where to live?
- Our children's faith

Praise God

- Successful oral defense and completion of Karl's PhD
- God's constant faithfulness and provision

Calendar

- 31 Jan – Karl preach at Buccleuch Free Church
- February – move to USA?



Dear Friends and Family,

Happy New Year! I hope you've enjoyed a pleasant Christmas despite scaled back celebrations for many of us. In this letter, I want to share briefly some things from 2020 for which we are thankful, and then outline what is likely ahead for us in 2021.

Ph.D Completed!

Thank you to the many who prayed for the oral defense of my PhD thesis. I was examined on Dec. 10th and pleasantly surprised to pass without any corrections. I am grateful to God, to my supervisor, to my family, and to all of you who have supported and encouraged me along the way.

Local Ministry in Edinburgh

Despite lockdowns and restrictions, Sun has been in contact with various international ladies in Edinburgh, seeking to minister to practical and personal needs, and share the Gospel. She's had good conversations, especially with an Asian woman who was interested in the Gospel; Sun helped her think through the family implications of what it would mean if she got baptized. We're thankful to God for these opportunities and pray for more.

Articles Accepted for Publication

Part of my ministry is producing resources about church history, missions/world Christianity, and Bible/theology that will educate, inspire, and challenge Thai speaking Christians and missions-minded English speakers. For that reason, I am thankful that writing I have submitted has been (or soon will be) published. For example, my article "The Sinner's Prayer in Animistic Cultures" was published *Mission Round Table* (April 2020). While we are waiting for Thailand to re-open, I have some additional writing projects in mind for the first half of 2021, including turning my PhD thesis into a book.

Thai Ministry from a Distance

The miracle of the internet keeps me in touch with Thai Christians, often related to my writing and online work. Because authors often don't know the impact of their work, I have found

these interactions encouraging and an affirmation of the value of my writing. Here's a few examples from the past year:

1) a Thai Christian in a leadership position read my Thai-language articles against the prosperity gospel as well as a Thai-language book on the five solas of the Protestant Reformation to which I contributed two chapters. Her church's leaders were promoting the prosperity gospel and other false teaching. She wanted to know, should she keep pushing for change or leave?

2) a Thai man messaged me to say thank you for the Thai-language version of the M'Cheyne Bible reading plan that I published online. He greatly appreciated it and shared it with others

3) two Thai Christian men were referred to me because they are interested in doing post-graduate studies related to Thai church history. I am really glad to be in touch with them because one of my long-term goals is to help raise up Thai historians and seminary professors who can draw upon the riches of the past to inspire and disciple other Thai Christians.

Move to USA and Waiting for Thailand

We cannot currently go to Thailand due to the country's tight COVID-19 restrictions and the need to raise additional support. Once missionary visas become available again, it will take at least 3-4 months (or longer) for the application to be processed. Thus, in February 2021 or so, we will likely move from Scotland to the U.S. for an indefinite period until Thailand is again open for us. During our time in the States, we aim to: 1) re-connect with churches and mission partners, 2) raise more financial support (we need an additional \$1400/month to return to Thailand), 3) Karl will work on some writing projects (TBD).

Thank you so much everyone for your prayers and support up to this point, and going forward. We don't know what 2021 holds but we lift our eyes up to God. Our help comes from Him.

by Christ's grace,
Karl & Sun Dahlfred

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