

# TIDINGS FROM THAILAND

*Karl & Sun Dahlfred - Missionaries to Thailand*  
scotland edition

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## Prayer Points

- God to open the way for us to return to Thailand
- Guidance for what to do until Thailand opens
- Faithfulness in serving Him wherever we are
- Advance of the kingdom of God and resolution to political troubles in Thailand

## Praise God

- Submission of Karl's PhD thesis
- God's constant faithfulness and provision

## Calendar

It's 2020.

We can't plan more than a week in advance.



Dear Family and Friends,

As we approach the end of 2020, we wanted to update you with some good news and not-so-good though not unexpected news. Yet, God is forever sovereign, so we look ahead with hope.

### Ph.D Thesis Submitted!

On the plus side, at the end of October, I submitted my PhD thesis! Thanks be to God! This was a great relief and important milestone, but don't call me "doctor" yet. I am now waiting to get a date for my viva voce (oral defense). I hope this will happen before the end of the year. In the meantime, I am working on some other projects, and doing more homeschool supervision and cooking to allow Sun to have more time for what she'd like to do, which includes meeting up with people and a new blog. If I pass my viva, I will have at least a few months to complete corrections. That should not be a problem, though, because we don't have anywhere to go.

### Return to Thailand Delayed

On the downside, we won't be able to return to Thailand by January 2021 as hoped. COVID-19 restrictions are still fairly tight and only a trickle of foreigners on certain visa types are being allowed entry. Missionary visas are not currently permitted to return. March 2021 might be the earliest that missionary visa holders could go back, though that might be too optimistic.

However, even if Thailand allowed missionary visa holders to return tomorrow, we'd still be stuck. As you might remember, I lost my missionary visa when I could not travel to Bangkok in June to renew it. We are looking into other Thailand visa options, but a good solution has not yet presented itself. Currently, the Thai government is not accepting new missionary visa applications and we don't know when they will. Under normal circumstances, a new missionary visa takes 3-4 months to process. So, once they start accepting visa applications again, it will still be at least a few months, if not longer, before we can return. It is unclear how a vaccine rollout would impact Thailand's border restrictions.

So where does that leave us? Frankly, we are not sure where we will be (or should be) in the new year. We could live anywhere until the way to Thailand opens up again since my visa will be online and I do not need to be in Scotland while doing corrections. Our default option, however, is to stay put in Edinburgh. Yet after I officially complete my PhD, the clock will start ticking on our UK visas and we will have 4 months to leave the country or find another visa option. We could move back to the U.S for a while (and live where? And do what?). We are open to various options, though ideally, we would like to minimize the number of international moves we make this coming year.

Please **pray** that God would make it clear to us where we should be, and what we should be doing, until Thailand opens again.

Please **pray** that God would open the way for us to return to Thailand. Unless He clearly directs us otherwise, we still believe that Thailand is where God wants us to serve.

Please **pray** that logistical and financial support would come together by the time Thailand opens. We may need an increase in monthly donations to return.

We are grateful for your prayers and financial support. Thank you for sticking with us as I have pursued a doctorate, and now as we are entering a period of uncertainty while Thailand is closed. We would be happy to hear from you, whether by email or video chat or some other way. Feel free to send us your news and how we can pray for you during this time.

by Christ's grace,  
Karl & Sun Dahlfred

Check out Sun's new blog, **Financial Freedom**.

Because of COVID-19, a major economic recession may be right around the corner. How can we preserve our savings and make them grow? How can we live faithfully in these times?

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