

The Randy Ashcraft Family

MISSIONARIES TO SOUTHEAST ASIA



Mobilizing and assisting Hispanic missionaries moving into the 10/40 window

"BEHOLD YE AMONG THE HEATHEN, AND REGARD, AND WONDER MARVELLOUSLY: FOR I WILL WORK A WORK IN YOUR DAYS, WHICH YE WILL NOT BELIEVE, THOUGH IT BE TOLD YOU." - HABAKKUK 1:5

April 2010

Dear Friends,

Almost exactly one year ago this week, the Lord called my wife and I to serve Him in Southeast Asia. The last year has been an adventure for the Ashcraft family. There was very little fanfare involved in our arrival in Bangkok on the 14th of April. Although, I was very grateful to see missionary Ricky Salmon, his wife, Tammy, and their son, Dusty, waiting for us near baggage claim! We managed to cram us and our 23 suitcases/trunks/containers in their small SUV and compact pickup truck plus a taxi cab. It was quite a sight! We spent our first two nights at the Salmon's house and are very grateful for their hospitality. It was quite a change for us. The first couple of days, the temperature was over 100 degrees and 80% humidity. It has cooled down a little and we are very thankful that some of the rooms in our home have air conditioning.

As I am writing this letter to you, Gwendolyn has just finished unpacking the last piece of luggage and this house is starting to look like a home. I think many times it's easy to overlook the hard work of missionary wives. Packing and unpacking and then doing it all over again, the whole

while, taking care of me and the five children. Gwendolyn does a great job.

I was very excited to get an e-mail from Pastor Jose Luis Ayala before we made our trip. He and the members of La Fe Baptist Church in Jiménez, Chihuahua, had a special prayer meeting at 6 a.m. their time the day of our departure and they prayed for us during our trip from the United States to Thailand. Altogether, the trip took thirty hours and it was a blessing to know that all the while, there were folks praying for us. It was also an encouragement to see another church in Mexico take us on for support. Although these churches are not as well off financially as our churches in America, they continue to give sacrificially because they believe in the work that we are doing. They also understand that the Great Commission applies not only to American churches but to all churches.

You may have heard recently about violence in the city of Bangkok. At this time, there is some political unrest and protesters have shut down several major roads in the city. There are cer-

tain areas of Bangkok we will not be able to go to at this time. One of the areas is only a couple of blocks from the Thai language school I am planning to attend. Due to the violence near their building, they have closed the school until things calm down. We keep thinking every day that the protesters will dwindle in number but they do not. Needless to say, it is a delicate situation that merits our prayers. One thing we do know, the Lord is still in control.

We attended Bangjak Baptist Church last Sunday where missionary Ricky Salmon is Pastor. I will be teaching English there next week and preaching through an interpreter the first week of May. BBC is a growing church with areas of ministry we can get involved in while we learn the Thai language and culture.

Please pray for me and my family as we continue to adjust to life in Southeast Asia.

Your Missionaries,
Randy & Gwendolyn Ashcraft
Lee, Cynthia, Andrew,
Caleb & William

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