

Dear friends and family,

It has been great visiting many of you in various parts of the USA during our Home Ministry Assignment. We are grateful for your continuing prayers and financial support for our ministry in South East Asia. We have been especially blessed by your outpouring of prayer for Angie as she has battled her illness. Here is a health update from her:

*"As most of you know, this past June I was diagnosed with pure red cell aplasia. This is an auto-immune condition in which the red blood cells don't mature enough to be released from the bone marrow into the bloodstream. I have been taking medication for 8 months now and at the moment I am stable at a hemoglobin level of around 11, but this seems to be reliant on strong medications, which is not sustainable. The doctor would especially like to get me off of the steroid as soon as possible. On March 8, I met with an expert hematologist from Chicago to see what the next step should be in my treatment. He explained my options and will meet with his medical team in Chicago and then will send a recommendation. I will meet with my doctor on March 24 to take a look at the recommendation. I would appreciate prayer for wisdom for the doctors and for us and patience in the waiting."*

### **Since our last ministry update ...**

In December, I traveled to Florida to meet with a Vietnamese-American ministry partner and to gather reports about what God is doing in our discipleship network in Vietnam. I was very pleased to hear many stories of how Jesus is multiplying His disciples in Vietnam through the faithful efforts of His people there. Many of the people we have trained in Vietnam are seeing their third generation of disciples start to disciple the fourth generation, and there are a couple of ministries that reported fifth generation disciples. These disciple-makers live in all regions of the country, and as we shared with one another via Zoom, all of us were giving glory to God for allowing us to be part of His work in that beautiful nation.

Meanwhile, in the Philippines, my ministry partners led several discipleship-training workshops in various communities and are now providing follow-up coaching. Just in this past week, several dozen people were baptized as a result of discipleship ministry in the province of Nueva Ecija. Most of the new disciples in the Philippines are young people, and we are praising God as we see young professionals disciple teenagers and other young adults. Our small business projects in the Philippines have played an important part in facilitating sustainable community-based discipleship and church planting efforts.

Our brothers and sisters in Myanmar have really been struggling as they have faced the double scourge of a military takeover and Covid-19. Many of the disciples we work with there cannot afford to purchase even the staple food products they need for their family. For those who contracted Covid, there was no medical care available, so many people suffered and died unnecessarily. Some of the people I know have been arrested and held without trial by the military regime. It is a dark and discouraging time in Myanmar, but in spite of the difficulties, my ministry partners are standing firm in the power of the Lord and continue to make disciples and provide spiritual care for people. What a joy it was to receive recent photos of new believers being baptized in secret in the city of Yangon!

I have received some great reports of what God is doing in Thailand as well, but I will save those for next time as I will be visiting Thailand from April 20th to May 8th. I will be meeting with ministry partners (Thai nationals and World Partners missionaries) in five provinces to provide encouragement, training and coaching. I will also be participating in several strategic meetings hosted by the Christian non-profit I have served with for the past decade.

I recently returned from a three-week trip to Hawaii, connecting with supporting churches and friends. It was a refreshing time, and we are grateful that Angie and Emily did not experience any major difficulties while I was away. So far, since last summer, I have traveled to 19 states for ministry and family events and haven't even had a cold or sore throat. Since Angie's medicine suppresses her immune system, I have been very thankful that I haven't brought any sickness back to her after my trips.

Here are some **upcoming events** in the next couple of months you can pray for:

March 10 - Video chats with ministry partners in Philippines and Myanmar  
March 13 - I speak at Faith Christian Church (Pearl City, HI) via Zoom  
March 20 - I speak at Bureau Township Community Church in Princeton, IL  
March 24 - Angie meets with her doctor to discuss plans for further treatment  
March 28-April 1 - Angie will participate in an online conference for women

April 20 - May 8th - I will be ministering in Thailand

May 10th - Angie meets with the specialist from Chicago to finalize her treatment plan

**Quick Updates on our kids**

April will defend her dissertation in June and hopes to be awarded her doctorate in physics in August. Her husband, Ted, will be awarded his Masters degree in mathematics on May 14th. He will start his doctoral studies in August. April will be 25 years old in June.

Jacob continues working for an internet company and has assumed leadership roles during the past year. He often travels to work in other communities in Illinois where his company has branch offices. He will be 22 years old next month.

Emily is working at Chick Fil-A and is excited about starting her studies at Wheaton College in August. She turned 19 years old in January.

It has been wonderful having all of our kids in the same town during these challenging past months. We are thankful for God's continuing work in their lives. Please pray with us that God strengthen and uphold them in these turbulent times.

Thank you for the many ways you have enriched our lives. May God bless you and fill you with wonder as you contemplate His goodness. As the world seems to spiral downwards into chaos and we face various challenges, we are encouraged by the words of Psalm 27:14, *"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"*

Shaun & Angie