

September 2022 – Shaun & Angie Futch

Dear friends and family,

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. We have moved from Urbana, Illinois and will be based out of Fort Wayne, Indiana starting in early October while Angie continues her medical treatment. Emily is now studying at Wheaton College in Illinois. Jacob still works in an internet business in Champaign, Illinois, and April and Ted are living in Morgantown, West Virginia where he is earning his PhD and she is teaching at a university. Angie's health continues to slowly improve, and we are grateful for the doctors and medications God has used to keep her blood levels acceptable.

I have continued our home ministry assignment travel by visiting churches in the Midwest and California since I last wrote. We also participated in the World Partners staff retreat in July. Later this month, I will visit supporters in Washington and Oregon. I was supposed to travel to Thailand and the Philippines this month, but several factors made it necessary to postpone that trip. I have instead kept in touch with our ministry partners via numerous video calls, email discussions, and text chats. These daily conversations will continue be significant part of my ministry while we continue to be based in the USA. Once we move to Fort Wayne, I am looking forward to getting involved in ministry to Asian refugees there as well.

The people of Myanmar have suffered greatly as civil war and COVID wreaked havoc on all aspects of society. Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced as their homes have been ransacked and destroyed. Millions of people cannot afford to provide adequate food for their families. One of my friends lost the house that he had purchased when it was destroyed by the authorities with only a few days notice. Many people have been imprisoned or executed without due process. In the midst of this chaos and destruction, God has been drawing people to Himself through the sacrificial love and obedience of His people there.

I have helped my ministry partners organize food distributions in four different areas of the country. Through generous donations from a church in Hawaii and another in Indiana, we were able to launch a program that sold food at pre-crisis prices to families. Selling the food at subsidized rates rather than giving it away for free increased the purchasing power of the original donations by almost 300%. People also feel more dignity when they can purchase food rather than just receiving charity. Through these donations and the faithful follow-up of my ministry partners, hundreds of families were encouraged, and some of them decided to follow Jesus and receive baptism. As for the family whose home was destroyed, they are still serving in that city, now living in a rented house, sharing the gospel and training up believers. They just baptized five former Buddhists a few days ago.

When I visited Thailand this past April and May, I was able to see how God continues to build His church in Thailand through my ministry partners. I met with many people who are making disciples in their communities and through their community development endeavors. Since then, I continue to be in touch with my partners and am hearing great reports. One pastor who serves in the city of Lampang is leading a team of disciple-makers who are ministering in four different universities in his city. Before COVID, they only had a meaningful presence in one of those colleges. After being disciplined in Lampang, the university graduates scatter throughout Thailand and continue to make disciples wherever they live.

In Chiang Mai province, another ministry partner is operating a pig farm which has allowed him to support his family while making disciples in his village and the surrounding area. He is now

celebrating his second generation of Jesus-followers. This month we are launching another pig farm in a different province. The owner of that farm not only ministers to Karen and Lahu people in his own community but is now equipped to train and coach new disciples over a large area. The pig farm will allow him and his wife to live sustainably while serving the Lord in this vital way.

Other partners in Chiang Mai are helping women get out of the sex trade by training them to sew and learn other job skills. Some of you have provided funds for sewing machines, both for my ministry partners and for the ladies to use to generate income for themselves and their children. They recently celebrated the baptisms of several women and children.

These are just a few of the stories I could tell from Myanmar and Thailand. There are also exciting things happening in Philippines, VN, Malaysia and Indonesia, but to keep this newsletter short, I will share some of them next time. I will be visiting VN in November to reconnect with my ministry partners there and to engage in training and coaching in new areas. I will also be visiting Thailand on that trip.

Please pray for ...

- Angie's health to continue to improve as her doctors slowly taper her medication
- Our transition to Indiana & Emily's transition to college life
- Wisdom as I continue encouraging, mentoring and coaching ministry partners in Asia
- Safety as I travel to the Northwest from September 19-26
- Good preparation for my trip to VN and Thailand in November
- Our hearts and minds to be fixed on Jesus
- Provision for our financial support needs in 2023 (both personal support and ministry travel)

Thank you for your partnership with us. We are so grateful for each of you who provides financial support for our ministry and for those who uphold us in prayer. We are blessed by the outpouring of love that God has given us through you.

Shaun & Angie