

THE FILES FAMILY MISSIONARIES TO THAILAND

Dear friends, family, and supporting churches,

January-February 2022

Thank you so much for your continued prayer and support. We finished off 2021 with a great service and it seemed like things were heading in the right direction and we had a Covid outbreak in our church. We had to go back to live stream only for the first month and a half of the new year. That is not how we wanted to start out the new year. We have been able to meet in person the last two weeks but everyone has not come back yet. Please pray that all of the members here will have the courage to come back to church soon. The people here are extremely afraid of Covid. We did have a man that has visited several times bring his wife and daughter for the first time this past Sunday. That was encouraging. The Cone family that we are assisting while studying the Thai language came back this month from their furlough. It is a blessing to have them and their experience back here with us. We still have issues from time to time with the language barrier, and it is helpful to have someone to call when you get in a bind.

Our studies are going well. We had to pass a test last week to be able to extend our visa and Lisa and I both did well on it. We were pretty nervous about it. It was a fairly lengthy exam and when they first gave it to me, I didn't think I would pass it, but as I started answering the questions, I began to remember things that I had studied and ended up passing it easily. Some days you feel like quitting, and that you are never going to be able to learn it, but you just keep plugging away and try to learn something every day. Little by little our vocabulary is growing and our ability to communicate is getting better. We did have a funny language blooper a few weeks ago. Lisa likes sushi so we took her out for a special dinner to get sushi. The pictures on the menu showed one piece, not a whole roll. To make a long story short, Lisa ended up ordering 10 rolls of sushi for herself instead of 10 pieces. It was pretty funny until we got the bill. That was an expensive language lesson.

We are sending in our paperwork to apply for a missionary visa. Our education visa will be up in June. With a missionary visa we will be able to legally be here as missionaries and we only have to renew it once a year, instead of every two months like we are doing now. We have had all kinds of issues with visas since we have been here so please pray that we get approved for the missionary visa before ours expires in June.



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