



THE NICKELL FAMILY

Missionaries to Thailand



January 2024

Sending Church

First Baptist Church
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Pastor Micaiah Stanley
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Serving With



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To open their eyes, and to
turn them from darkness to
light, and from the power
of Satan unto God, that
they may receive
forgiveness of sins, and
inheritance among them
which are sanctified by
faith that is in me.

Acts 26:18

Current Support:
97%

Prayer Requests

- Support from churches
- Traveling safety
- Language school decision
- Laborers for God's Harvest

Dear Pastors and Praying Friends,

It fills me with joy to be able to update you this month from the country of Thailand! The Lord has seen us through the effort and work of an encouraging deputation process to bring us to the field where He has called us. This past month was different than our normal schedule of having meetings with churches. This is because of the wonderful increase of support we have seen the Lord provide for us the last few months, but also because we were able to devote this month to other important things. With January being the last month before our departure for Thailand, the Lord blessed us with the invaluable opportunity to spend time with our families and loved ones. Our home church in Iowa had a special send-off service for us the first Sunday of the new year. Our pastor challenged us to continue in the things which we have been taught in the Scriptures, and our church family shared a number of encouraging words to us in our farewell. **This was an emotional, bittersweet time as we said "goodbye" to those who we love most and who most love us. We are truly blessed to have such a godly pastor and home church behind us as we labor in the fields of Thailand.** As the Lord allowed us to stay with my parents over the holidays and into the new year, He also made a way for us to be with Katrina's parents in Memphis the last few weeks we were Stateside. Our time with them was both enjoyable and busy! Over the course of our deputation, we left our possessions, which we were not able to travel with, at Katrina's parents'. This meant that over the next few weeks we were busy packing our tubs of extra luggage for the flight. Once we were finished, we had packed 28 tubs and 4 suitcases. **We praise the Lord for giving us wisdom in deciding what to leave and what to take, but also for many of you who gave financially to help fund the cost of the extra luggage. In the middle of all this activity, I thank God for the divine appointment of leading a man named Marcus to Christ while shopping for extra bins at Lowe's.**

Our final week in the States was especially terrific. The Wednesday night before we left for Thailand we were unexpectedly given the chance to share our ministry and our call to the Spanish church out of my in-laws' church. They had already begun to support us financially, but it was such a joy to worship the Lord with them, present the mission field of Thailand to them, and answer their questions. During this same week, the Lord gave me the chance to talk with our oldest boy Champion about baptism. He had been taking swimming lessons in preparation of us living next to the beach in Thailand, and I encouraged him that with his lessons he was overcoming his fear of water and could be baptized if he wanted to be. **After praying about it and talking to him further about this wonderful decision, he voiced his desire to follow the Lord in believer's baptism!** We are thrilled the Lord worked in his heart to take this step, and that our entire family, mine and Katrina's, were able to witness this act of obedience by Champion.

On Monday, January 29th, we began our departure to Thailand. Once again, bittersweet goodbyes were said as we left my parents and siblings at the airport. We are blessed to have Katrina's parents come along with us to watch the children for the first few weeks in Thailand while we work towards beginning our new life here. **We thank the Lord for both of our families' support in following the Lord's will.** The entire trip from Memphis to Bangkok went so smoothly. There were no delays, no flights missed or canceled; the children did fantastic for their first time flying; and all of our luggage made to Thailand! We thank the Lord for His goodness to us through that process. After we had landed in Thailand, we had such a warm welcome awaiting us from Brother Mike and Mrs Panan Leemon (the missionaries we are working with) and others who are sure to be great friends to us here. We drove to Cha-Am from Bangkok and, after getting some rest to help with the jetlag, we set out to begin searching for the home the Lord had prepared for us. The Leemons have been a huge help to us already in getting established here, and one big example of that was in finding homes available for rent. We believe the Lord has shown us the home He has given us, and we thank each of you for praying about this matter with us.

In Christ,

The Nickell Family - Jordan, Katrina, Champion, Emmitt, & Autumn

