We shared in our last update several changes coming to our ministry and context. Since then, we have returned to Bangkok after a four-month trip back to America to visit supporting churches and donors. We had some time of sabbath over the summer. The time helped us prepare for a new term of mission work in Bangkok, where we look forward to how God will lead us into several new roles and major transitions from Grace Community Church to Maitrichit Church (MTC).

Transformational Retreat

Activity: Telling our Story through pictures.

Returning to Bangkok, the GCC leadership requested I lead a retreat. Derived from a classic track called My Heart, Christ’s Home, our retreat focused on Christ being with us and in us and how union in Christ transforms us. The retreat allowed us to go deep into our stories of faith, seeing Christ’s presence then and now.

Being Sent to MTC

GCC prayerfully sending us out to a new chapter of ministry

Celebrating 6 years of ministry at GCC, formerly Covenant Church.

We Love Road Trips

We miss the beautiful open U.S. roads

Travels this summer led us as far west as Willmar, Minnesota, as far south as South Carolina, and as far north as Toronto, Canada, closing up our trip in the New York Metro area. In total, we drove about 8,000 miles. We thank God for travel safety, outside of a slight mishap with a deer in Michigan. Rawee is safe. And we thank God for all the love and prayer we shared at each table over coffee or a meal. Not only were our bodies filled, but our spirits felt great encouragement and joy.
After serving at Covenant Church and leading them to replant as Grace Community Church, we never fathomed a day where we would not be worshipping and serving this faithful family of believers. But in October, God led us to be sent out to a new ministry. We experienced the bittersweet reality of leaving people we love and discipled, trusting everyone into God’s hands.

GCC Elder Board (From left to right: Poo, Sunthorn, Rawee, Dang)

We celebrate and thank God for the leaders of GCC, especially in the lives of Dang and Sunthorn, who Rawee discipled over the past six years. Dang is now in seminary, preparing for pastoral ministry, and Sunthorn is praying for God’s will about entering full-time ministry. Sunthorn recently preached for the first time and got great feedback! So proud of these guys and thank God for what the Lord is doing in their lives.

In November, we began the transition to Maitrichit Church, where we are partnering with the oldest protestant congregation in Thailand. Our work is to pioneer a new ministry to meet the needs of a growing demographic that will lead to the future of Thailand. Imagine English-speaking Thai people in urban Bangkok, global citizens, who need the gospel, discipleship, and pastoral care.

Please pray for us in the areas of wisdom, planning, and forming a gospel-centered team of leaders who will serve in this new ministry for the sake of the city. Check out the MTC Background section to learn more about this unique church.

Unexpected Opportunities

As Nui experienced transition with Manas starting school, she was open to what God might have for her after over ten years of being a mommy to young children. God opened an opportunity for her to serve as a volunteer, leading a group of third-graders in a weekly after school discipleship program at our boy’s school called the Good News Club (GNC). This term’s topic is How to Meet with God—“Quiet Time”

If you know Nui, she is an introvert and this opportunity came with some apprehensions. She prayed and felt God inviting her to be courageous and to have faith. As a couple of weeks past, we could see the importance of this ministry and how God uses it to serve a group of energetic students from varying backgrounds and cultures in the name of Christ.

Doctoral Studies

A quick update on this. Rawee is crafting an eight-session experience leading a small group of pastors and leaders through how the gospel transforms us through community and formation practices centered on the gospel. He will be taking notes as to how an experience like this affects Asian shame-based contexts.

We have always seen that the greatest missional impact we can have is to develop, walk alongside, and train leaders. We have found the tool of coaching to be an effective way to serve others in this process. In October, an unexpected opportunity came to Rawee. He was invited to coach 14 pastors ranging from five to over 30 years of pastoral experience. The goal is to offer a coaching experience, which would lead to coach training for their pastoral contexts. We thank God for the privilege and honor of walking alongside this cohort of ministers. This ministry has been incredible and we are preparing to lead two coach trainings in January and March. Please keep this in prayer.
Our Prayer Requests

1. Ministry Transition to MTC
2. Family Adjusting to New Church Context as we seek deep community and fellowship, especially for Nui and our sons
3. Forming a launch team to serve English-speaking urban Thais
4. Coaching and training of 14 Thai Pastors
5. Rawee’s DMin project and writing
6. January travels to Orlando for RCA Mission 2020 Celebration
7. Mission Funding (read below for an update under Donor Reminder)

We are always praying for our supporters. If you have any specific prayer requests, please email us at: rawee@rca.org

Donor Reminder

We are only able to serve in Thailand thanks to the generosity of individuals and churches that God has led to giving each month or annually to the work in Bangkok. We are humbled by the faithfulness of many and the commitment to the Great Commission.

If you have been a monthly donor, but only made a one-year commitment. Please consider renewing that commitment towards God's work in Thailand.

If you changed bank accounts or have a new bank/credit card, your giving may have inadvertently been canceled. We can help fix that, so please let us know.

If you know a church or an individual who might be interested in partnering with us for the sake of the gospel in Bangkok, Thailand, please let us know.

If you do not support a missionary, we’d love to serve on your behalf.

If you have any questions about our ministry or giving, please know that we would love to hear from you!

The easiest way to give is to click the link below which will take you directly to the donor giving form set up by RCA Global Mission: www.rca.org/give/thailand

MTC Background

Maitrichit Church is the oldest diaspora Chinese congregation in the world. The church was originally founded in Bangkok, Thailand by missionaries recruited and sent from Rev. Adoniram M. Judson's mission work in Burma. Upon arrival, they found gospel receptivity amongst Teochew speaking Chinese in Bangkok and in 1837 with 11 members a new church was planted in Bangkok, Thailand along the Chao Phraya River.

Maitrichit Church is now located in the iconic Chinatown district of Bangkok. Over 180 years later, God’s work has brought growth. Maitrichit, by God’s grace, has become a large family focused on God’s word and God’s mission. From its humble beginnings as a church of 11 members, now, Maitrichit has over 3,000 members. Moreover, with thanksgiving, the Maitrichit Church Network numbers 26 churches, 29 church plants/mission posts, 105 ordained ministers, and 41 missionaries. Maitrichit Network is part of the District 1 Division 13 of the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT).

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Rawee and Nui’s ministry

Less than one percent of the Thai population confesses Jesus Christ as Lord. Rawee and Nui serve in partnership with United World Mission, alongside Thai pastors and other church leaders, helping them 1) train members of their congregations to reach their communities with the good news of Jesus Christ and 2) train the next generation of Christian leaders in Thailand. Learn more at www.rca.org/bunupuradah.