

Family & Ministry Update

October 2019

Dear friends and family,

It was a privilege to see many of you this past summer during our Home Ministry Assignment. We traveled to Hawaii, California, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas & Kansas. We were so blessed by the hospitality, encouragement and support we received from so many friends, family members and supporting churches. We were sad to miss seeing some of you, but we hope to be able to visit more of you during our next home assignment.

In the midst of our ministry engagements throughout the summer, we had the joy of seeing April marry Ted Townsend in Beavercreek, Ohio on July 6th. April wore the dress that Angie's mother wore at her wedding in 1967 and Angie wore at our wedding 25 years ago. We are so blessed to welcome Ted into our family!



April continues her graduate studies in particle physics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She will receive her Masters Degree in May of 2020 and then will continue earning her doctorate. Ted is working and applying to graduate schools. Both of them are involved in ministry at their local church and InterVarsity's fellowship for graduate students.

Jacob completed his freshman year at Bethel College this past May and has decided to take a break from his studies to work for a while. He is currently living in Champaign, Illinois and is working full time at an internet services business. We are so thankful that God provided Jacob with a job with benefits, a place to live, and a vehicle before Shaun returned to Thailand at the end of August.

Emily is a junior in high school at Grace International School. She continues to play in the school's jazz band. This year she is co-leading a Bible study for 7th grade girls on Wednesday nights. She is also involved in an afterschool club that ministers at a local children's home. One highlight of Emily's life now is the arrival of her new pets, two guinea pigs, into our home.

Angie is enjoying teaching her 11th first grade class at Grace International School. The school year was delayed by a couple of weeks as the move to the school's new campus hit some snags. This allowed Shaun to arrive back in Thailand in time for the dedication of the new campus. Angie loves her new classroom and continues to pursue both teaching and discipling her students. She has already seen God's hand at work in the lives of her first graders as they discover who God is and who God wants them to become. Angie also has many opportunities to encourage and advise her students' parents as they face some of the challenges of parenting.



I (Shaun) continue to serve as Strategic Development Leader at Family Connection Foundation. My role is to help the organization move forward in achieving its desired outcome of seeing positive, enduring social and spiritual transformation in Thailand. We currently have eighteen different projects



and programs in several provinces of Thailand. This photo was taken at the advisory board meeting of one of our projects called "Neighborhub." This Thai-led project seeks to transition people from stranger to friend to family to disciple of Jesus. They work with university students, senior citizens, poor villagers and anyone else that God brings to them. Over the years, they

have helped many people experience the love of Jesus in tangible ways, and a number of people have put their faith in Jesus. The DNA of this team is relational discipleship, and I am excited to see them work in partnership with local churches to train up the next generation of Christ followers in Thailand.

In September, Family Connection Foundation hosted its annual conference. The focus was demonstrating our love for God by loving others Jesus' way. I co-led this conference with Tim, the founder and director of the foundation. Our project leaders and staff from Chiang Mai, Kalasin and Ubon Ratchathani provinces came together to celebrate what God is doing in our various ministries and to explore how we can be even more effective at sharing the love and truth of Jesus to the darkest corners of Thai society. Most of our projects and programs focus on serving and caring for at-risk or abused women and children. Other projects are focused on making disciples in tribal settings and unreached communities. Our staff is comprised of missionaries from various parts of the world working in partnership with Thai believers. We also partner effectively with Thai police, social welfare workers and other government officials.



In mid-September, I took a short trip to Phang Nga province in southern Thailand to spend time encouraging and coaching a World Partners' staff member who serves there. I also had the privilege of training the staff of a local children's home. I taught them a transferable method of remembering and sharing "Who a Disciple Is" and "What a Disciple Does". I also preached at a Thai church whose leaders I have trained in the past and had a chance to talk with them about their ministry. I was blessed to hear how God is helping them be fruitful and multiply.

A couple of weeks, later, I traveled to Surabaya, Indonesia to connect with ministry partners there. Over four days, I coached and advised eight people who are making an impact for the kingdom of God through their lives and ministries. Each is serving the Lord in a different capacity based upon his or her calling and spiritual gifting, but it was exciting to see how God is working through them all. I also shared at the staff meeting of a large humanitarian organization about the proper motivation for serving and loving others. One of the main points of the trip was to plan ministry in Indonesia in 2020. I will return in January to lead a vision retreat for those whose mission is to take the gospel to the poorest communities of Surabaya. Later in the year, I will visit another, more rural island to share about how to make disciples by walking through doors opened by unconditional love and sacrificial service.



The discipleship movement taking place in Lampang province in Thailand continues to bring great joy to us. On October 6th, I was able to participate in a commissioning service for four young Thai believers who are being sent out to make disciples in Korea and Malaysia. Each of these young people was discipled at Thai Lampang Church during the past few years. After the commissioning, I led a training for some of the church's leaders about how to integrate story-telling in disciple-making.

Later that week, I met with the pastor of the church to gather information about the spiritual heritage and legacy of the four students who were commissioned. One of the girls, "J", is 22 years old and will be ministering to Thai workers and students in Incheon, Korea. She was discipled by a young lady who now works in Bangkok. That lady was in turn discipled by the pastor and his wife. "J" herself has discipled a student who is now 19 years old and this teen is leading a discipleship group of seekers and young believers at her university. We are praising God for five generations of disciples over the past six years. God's blessing has been poured out upon this growing church fellowship as they have made relationship discipleship the DNA of their church.

We are receiving good reports of what God is doing in the other South East Asian nations we are serving in and in other parts of Thailand, but those stories will have to wait for a future newsletter.

Looking Forward – Some Special Events

Every Tuesday evening – The small group we lead meets for Bible study, prayer and fellowship

October 29-November 10 – Shaun will be in three regions of Myanmar leading discipleship trainings, coaching local leaders and connecting various disciples and disciple-makers with one another.

October 30 – Emily is leading the Bible study discussion at her 7th grade girls' mentoring group

November 8 – Angie and Emily finish the first quarter of the school year

November 13 & December 11 – Shaun will be training leaders at a local church in San Sai District

November 15 – Family Connection Foundation's quarterly board meeting

November 21-23 – Shaun will be in Penang Malaysia meeting with World Partners staff and their ministry partners.

December 1 – Shaun will be ministering at Thai Lampang Church

December 13 – Emily's Band Concert

December 16 – Shaun will be ministering in Chiang Rai city

December 26-30 – We will be visiting friends who serve with World Partners in Taiwan

January 9-12 – Shaun will be ministering in Surabaya, Indonesia

General Prayer Requests

1. Pray for Angie's health. She has been experiencing back and neck pain
2. Pray for Emily as she is carrying a heavy load this semester
3. Pray for Angie and Emily when Shaun is away
4. Pray for April, Ted and Jacob and for us as we live so far away from them
5. Pray for God to continue to work in the lives of Angie's students
6. Pray for people in South East Asia to embrace the gospel and decide to follow Jesus
7. Pray for God's glory to be revealed through us and our network of disciple-makers

Thank you for your prayer for our family and for your financial support which allows us to serve here. We appreciate you and thank God for you often.

Shaun, Angie & Emily