

THE CRABTREE'S ARE HEADED TOTHAILAND!

Hi everyone! we are excited to be beginning a new chapter in our life as we follow God's leading to share the truth of God with the people in the Isan region of Thailand! We are so very happy to have you joining in what God is doing in Thailand by keeping up with us as we seek to see His kingdom come in Thailand.

A Call to Missions

Many years ago, God invited both of us to follow Him to the nations to share Jesus where He is not yet known. We were both seeking to find a like-minded believer to join in marriage. From the beginning, we have intended to spend a season living amongst people who do not have access to the gospel message and sharing the good news with them. In our own planning, we were thinking that we would go in 4 or 5 more years when Bryan would be finished with his degree but, as He often does, God had different plans.

Responding to the Call

Throughout this past year, we have really felt God continue to highlight to use His love and desire for the people of Thailand to come to know Him. We came to one another at the same time, on the same day, saying that we had something on our hearts to share and we both said that we thought God might be calling us to that season sooner than we had planned. That very week, a friend from when Katie was doing her semester abroad in Thailand in 2015 reached out and shared that she had been thinking of Katie and wondered if she might want to apply for a position at the school where she teaches in Udon Thani, Thailand. At that time in November, we began the process of interviewing for that position. In December, we connected with Global Reach and began the process of becoming missionary candidates. Since then, we have been busy with practical and spiritual preparations as we get ready to move to Thailand this June!

A Season of Preparation

This spring from now until we leave in June will be full of preparations. We will be busy getting all of the correct documents and paperwork in order, participating in new teacher and cultural orientation sessions via Zoom and making the many necessary preparationts to travel...with a baby! And two cats! And COVID restrictions! talk about complicated travel! We will be working to learn the Thai language, fixing up a few things in preparation of selling our house and visiting with friends and family as we share the vision God has given us and connecting in person while we have the opportunity. We will also be working to raise funds for ministry expenses during this time. We will both be finished with our current jobs at the end of May and will have a few weeks to prepare before we go, but most of these things will be happening as we continue to work full-time, engage with our church here and raise our beautiful daughter, Elli Grace (who just turned one on February 11!)

New Adventures

When we first arrive in Thailand, we will be quarantining for two weeks in a hotel (which is required due to COVID). After that, we will stay with a friend for a few weeks until we find a home to rent. Our goal is to be moved into a home before the school year begins. Katie will be working as a first grade teacher at International Community School of Udon Thani, a Christian international school. The school's staff are all missionaries whose goal is to disciple kids and see them come to know the Lord on a personal level. Aside from the missionaries' kids, virtually all of the students are from Buddhist homes. Parents send theri children to the school to get a high-quality education by native-English speakers and because the school has a reputation for being a safe, loving, nurturing community. As Jesus said, they will know that you are my disciples if you love one another. Bryan will be laying the groundwork for church planting in Udon Thani. He will be continuing his classes for Global Studies and Theology & Apologetics through Liberty University as well as continuing his study of the Thai language, establishing relationships with local people and caring for Elli. we are so thankful that God has brought us to this point in our journey and we trust that He will continue to lead and guide us as we pursue Him. We can't wait to see what God has in store for us next and we can't wait to share it with you. Than you for all of your prayers and support!

Prayer Requests

- For our families as they are processing this big change.
- For the families of Udon Thani to trust ICS with the education of their children.
- for the logistics of moving internationally, especially during COVID.
- For fundraising so that Bryan can continue his coursework through Liberty University.
- That God would be glorified in all we do!

Keeping Up With Us!

Follow along with what is happening at ICS Udon Thani by following their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/icsuonthani/ or learn more about ICS on their website at www.icsud.ac.th

We'd love to hear from you!

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<u>To Partner With Us:</u>

If you would like to partner with us please designate gifts to GR 2809.014 - Crabtree support. Make checks payable to CGGC and send to: CGGC - Global Reach, PO Box 926, Findlay, OH 45839 or give securley online at https://secure.cggc.org

Then I heard the Lord saying, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us? I said, "Here I am. Send me."

Isaiah 6:8