

The SEARLES in THAILAND

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Back in Thailand Glory!

The last six weeks have been nerve-wracking. We had been waiting for Thailand to open up, but in the back of our minds, we wondered whether it really would. It made it extremely difficult to book meetings because I didn't know if there was a possibility that we would be let back in.

I praise God that on February 15th I arrived.

Two years ago, I went back to the States for what I thought was going to be four months to raise money; instead, it turned out to be two years. Not only was I in the States, but Maureen would be in Thailand by herself for another eight months.

Imagine calling a church and telling them that you were a missionary to Thailand, but that you really didn't know that you were going back. I wondered, "Am I done?" I didn't think that the Lord was telling me that I was done, but there I was, seemingly being hung out to dry.

A few months ago there began to be rumors that Thailand was opening in November, but they had changed the requirements so many times we didn't know what to believe.

While I was working, my wife and daughter worked hard to find what was true and did most of the work to get me back here. Book a flight, apply for a visa (days' worth of filling out forms), medical forms, Thai medical pass, Thai medical insurance, and then a COVID PCR test 72 hours before boarding the plane. A second COVID PCR test when you get off the plane, a first night in quarantine, and then a third COVID PCR test 5 days after the second, followed by another night in quarantine.

Needless to say, I am happy and praise God to be back but I'm shell-shocked. In order not to lose any more support than we already have, I came back here as soon as possible. Maureen is still in the states and will be until we can get a suitable visa. That could take as much as five months.

The long and short of it is I'm back, I have gotten my Work Permit, I have applied for an extension on my 90-day visa and I AM PRAYING A LOT.

Me being back in the States opened the eyes of the Thai that inevitably in the future I will not be here, and that they cannot leave leadership to the non-national. This is something I have said over and over but until reality sets in it really doesn't mean anything.

Thank you for your trust prayers and support.

Tim