

LVPCA Special Projects

A Ministry of David Green

Volume 2, Number 2

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Heading to Southeast Asia!

We're heading to Southeast Asia! When we left RUF in January 2021, many people made suggestions about our next ministry – 19 suggestions! Since then we have felt increasingly drawn to serving with a mission team in Southeast Asia, training campus ministers and establishing new campus ministries throughout the region. Here is a recap of what we've done over the past year and a half:

- Step 1: Ask tons of questions. (Dozens of emails.)
- Step 2: Talk with team members in person. (Last year at General Assembly.)
- Step 3: Tests and interviews to determine suitability for cross-cultural ministry. (Passed!)
- Step 4: Visit the place to evaluate our prospects for success. (This February and March.)
- Step 5: Join a support organization. (Check)
- Step 6: Obtain approval of our presbytery. (Done!)

Last month our presbytery voted to approve the call to serve in Southeast Asia!

Do you think we've had doubts and reservations about this? Of course! On the surface, and to many people, it seems crazy. After a lifetime of college ministry in the U.S., to just move halfway around the world and live in an Asian culture. And I guess it is a little bit crazy. But you can imagine God doing something like this, can't you? Along the way, we kept reminding ourselves that all six steps had to be positive for this to work. God has had ample opportunity to stop us! Well, here we are.

What's Next

There are two remaining steps, and they are big ones:

- Step 7: Raise support to fund this ministry.
- Step 8: Move there.

We've been generously supported during this transition period, but we need at least double the income to minister

overseas. I will be spending the next 12 or more months explaining this ministry and encouraging churches and individuals to join our support team.

Then there is the big job of moving. We don't have to tackle that until closer to departure, but it's frequently on our minds.

We are simultaneously excited and intimidated. But now that our direction is set, we're eager to get moving. We don't know how long these last two steps will take, but we're thinking of moving possibly next summer.

Southeast Asia Snapshot



When you think of Southeast Asia, do you picture jungles and primitive tribes? Or does this bring back rough memories of Vietnam? Perhaps luxurious tropical vacation spots? You can find all this, but Southeast Asia also has the major business centers of Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, and Bangkok. Did you know that there are more Muslims in Indonesia than in any other nation? And there are a lot of universities. The church is in Southeast Asia, but in small numbers. There's a lot more to discover as we learn how best to minister in that region. Campus ministry is not new there, but it feels like a ministry frontier compared to the places we've worked in the past. Each issue of our following newsletters will introduce an aspect of Southeast Asia as we learn more about it.

Stay Connected to our Ministry!

As we move into a new ministry, Ruth and I will be working under a new name with new email addresses, etc. I will send another newsletter next month under our new name, and will provide more details about our proposed work. *This is the final issue of this newsletter series.*

We will be supported by an organization set up to care for people like us going overseas. Next month I'll provide information about how to contribute through that organization. If you do not currently receive these newsletters and want to stay in touch, email me at CDavidGreen@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, please continue to support us through LVPCA Special Projects. All funds received there will cover our expenses as we prepare for Southeast Asia. You may send checks made out to "LVPC" to:

LVPCA Special Projects
31 S. 13th St.
Allentown, PA 18102

You may also contribute online at "<http://bit.ly/3vx9A19>" or scan this QR code. ➔ Put "Special Projects" in the note box.



Summer Reflections



"For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out...Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me."

Romans 7:18,20

I've been thinking about sin. Have you? All spiritual people do ☺. At least St. Paul did. Two whole chapters of his letter to the Romans are about sin, and I've been reading two books on the topic.

Sin is something we avoid — or are *supposed* to avoid. But sometimes we aren't very successful, and neither was the

great St. Paul! What Paul discovered and explained in Romans is that *acts* of sin are prompted by a *spiritual power* that lives in us — and he calls this power Sin.

God calls us to holy living, to sin-free lives — and He gives us His Holy Spirit to help us. The Holy Spirit creates in us a divine perspective on life, gives us holy desires, and prompts us to godly behavior. But Sin is active in us pushing a worldly perspective, fueling evil desires, and urging us into sinful behavior. It's a war! And it's going on inside us all the time. And neither side will ever give up. No wonder it's hard for us consistently to do the right thing, Even Paul cried out in desperation, "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"

Paul answered his cry in the next verse, "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" God is never giving up on us! We may stumble and sin from time to time (and if St. Paul did, so will we), but Paul boldly declares in the next verse, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." God will not punish us when we sin. He will help us up and set us on the right path. There may be attendant unpleasant consequences, but God will walk through those with us. This is wonderfully hopeful news! Sin is bad. We should avoid it. But God is not angry with us when we sin and is hard at work fighting the Sin which is at war within us.

But this good news only applies to those who are "in Christ Jesus." Many non-Christians live virtuous lives and are a blessing to others, but Sin is always at work in them, producing evil thoughts and desires, and urging them toward sinful behavior. Non-Christians have a choice. They can either make peace with Sin and devote themselves to wickedness, or spend their lives fighting a losing battle against Sin, an enemy they have no hope of finally defeating. It's a life of spiritual slavery and misery.

But we have a message of hope and deliverance! May God use us, each in his own place and way, to bring this good news to others here and in every nation and so be instruments of their salvation.

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Prayer Requests, August 2022

1. Praise God we are cleared to begin preparing for ministry in Southeast Asia!
2. Pray for fund-raising and other preparation.
3. Pray for God to give many people and churches enthusiasm for our ministry in Southeast Asia.
4. Pray for God to provide the funds.
5. Pray that we can be ready to leave by next summer.