

# Blue Asia Grace

## The Big News

About seven months ago we went to the Immigration agency to apply for visas to stay. One officer passed the buck to the next down the line until one of them told us that it was not possible for them to get visas. After prayer and counseling with our mission, we decided that my family would go back to home while I stayed and continued the ministry and language studies. They would have to stay for at least six months before they would be able to come back, so we bought their return tickets accordingly. They spent six months in America and about two weeks before they were supposed to board the plane to return, my wife was experiencing a lot of pain in her abdomen. In the middle of her night (my day) she called me and said the pain was ripping her out of sleep. I told her to get to the ER, and there she had her appendix removed. While she was recovering from the surgery, she was afflicted with a similar kind of attack she sometimes goes through when she jet lags. She describes them as something like a panic attack that lasts much longer. When she describes them there

is such distress in her voice that I've decided that this is something we need to have looked into for her wellbeing. Not so much inconvenient as an answer to our prayers about the next step. It may explain why our many prayers for visas have been "unanswered" for now. Although following God will take us through many difficult, scary, and seemingly impossible circumstances, it is not acceptable for a leader to pray instead of provide when provision is possible. I learned that from the book of James. I would prefer us all to be in here and just pray, but my wife needs me to provide for her. So I bought a plane ticket on Monday and flew home. It was an indescribably joyous reunion. We have since then flown kites together, gone to the county fair, played board games, and ran around the yard finding various insects to collect.

## What This Means For The Mission

This mission is still on track, it's just a different track than I would have taken if God had left the choice with me. For now, we are hunting down visa solutions for the whole family while seeking medical answers to my wife's condition. I will also be continuing to study language in the duration. We were refunded the full value of the tickets that they did not use because her doctor restricted her from traveling; another of God's provisions. Although it may be six months before we get back (of course we don't know for sure), there is so much momentum behind this mission from everyone involved I feel like I'm zipping down white-water rapids. In my opinion, the way God is providing, orchestrating, and directing it all, He would pull me back into it like Jonah if I tried to quit it because He's not finished with it. Concerning which, I would invite you to read an attached letter from the board of our mission.

## A Break From Loneliness

For three weeks in July, I had a student from Frontier School of the Bible (my alma mater) fly out and stay with me. He came out for an international experience while seeing how God would move his heart in missions. He was a country boy from Montana, so street smarts was on our check list of things to learn. He was badgered by the homeless and pressed on by overbearing salesmen as we walked through the streets of the capital. He ate everything from Sheep's head to foods that have no translation into English. He helped me feed the homeless who were sober, minister in a church in the country side, and he preached in our church in the city. It was nice for me to be used by God as a springboard for a future minister.

## A Need for Hope

During June, I was having some of the young twenty-somethings over to my house for a movie and popcorn night. As people started to show up, I stepped out to run across the street to buy something. When I was on my way back, just before I turned the corner of one of the apartment buildings, a young girl jumped out of the building and committed suicide. As I came up to the body, I looked up and saw one of my friends who was on her way to my house. She had witnessed the whole scene and I quickly brought her in and had one of the other girls console her and pray. I took the opportunity to give Solomon's wisdom on the brevity of life and the need to think soberly about it. I encouraged them to be vigilant of friends and family who may be suicidal and to be ready to minister to them. You just never know when and where God will call on you to serve.



The President of this country met with President Trump this summer. Most of the countries exports go to Asia, a long standing trend which could now change with Americas strained economic relationship there. This country's economy could use all the help it can get.

## Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer

For my language studies

For the doctors to help my wife

For visas for the whole family

For God's continued guidance of the mission

Praise God

For my wife's timely surgery

For reuniting our family

For providing a Christian psychiatrist for us so quickly



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August 14, 2019

Dear Friends and Supporters of this family,

As members of the leadership team at Tentmakers Bible Mission, we wanted to include a letter of support to accompany the this update.

We want you to know this family have kept in close contact with us as they have experienced delays, setbacks, and illness (including surgery) over the past 30 days.

The cumulative effect of these events has required their temporary return to the States so that the family can set the stage for a return to the field by the end of the year. We support this strategy and are working with them to facilitate their goal.

The Apostle Paul spoke of the challenges that come into the life of a missionary servant in Second Corinthians 1:8-11. He concluded those comments with a reminder in verse 11 that the believers in Corinth had a vital part in sustaining him during those difficult times, through the helping ministry of prayer.

Please join us in committed prayer on behalf of this couple as well as their children, as they pursue God's timetable for their return to the needy field by the end of the year. They have worked hard in laying the groundwork for the outreach of the Gospel there!

Thank you for your heart for the Lord's work, and this family

Fellow servants,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald J. Thompson".

Ron Thompson, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Mathias".

Chuck Mathias, Assistant Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vince Tharp".

Vince Tharp, Missionary Care

