GROTON ASSEMBLY OF GOD

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

PASTOR'S PEN

Giving Thanks



Did your parents or someone else ever teach you one of the foundations of common courtesy? Using *please* and *thank you* I believe is a foundation for showing courtesy to others and for showing consideration of others. Using the word *please* indicates an awareness of dependence on someone else's kindness, while using the phrase *thank you* indicates appreciation for a kindness someone else has shown us.

One of the signs of the last days is that people will be self-absorbed (lovers of themselves and ungrateful):

1 *You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times.* ***2*** *For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider* nothing sacred *(2Timothy 3:1-2, NLT).*

How often do we hear people demand something from others? It is one thing for a young child to do so—before being taught better—but for adults to do so is like listening to someone scratch a blackboard with his fingernails. And yet today, I believe we hear people demand things very frequently as though they are masters and others are slaves. Unfortunately, because this occurs so often around us—and sometimes to us—some of us who are God's children do the very same thing.

Might I suggest that during this month in which we celebrate the Pilgrim's thanking God for His kindnesses to them, we begin practicing thanking God every day for all of the good He shows us.

I hear from people a belief that God has not shown them any kindness whatsoever. Let us consider these gifts that God gives us: Life, breath, sunshine, rain, shade, beauty, and all of creation's declaring that He is real, powerful, eternal, holy, and good (Romans 1:20).

Let me tell you a secret: Thanking God frequently lifts us up.

You & Your Family Are Invited!

Missions Convention Weekend



November 7-8. Details page 3

November Service Schedule

Sunday, November 1

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups

10 a.m. – "Goodness & Severity of God"

Saturday, November 7 (Fall Missions Convention: International Night with Desserts)

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. – Join us for desserts & enjoyable activities highlighting missions

Sunday, November 8 (Fall Missions Convention)

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups

10 a.m. – John Ginnan, Youth Alive

Sunday, November 15

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups

10 a.m. – "Great Incoming"

Sunday, November 22 (New Sermon Series: *The Power of Thanksgiving*)

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups

10 a.m. – "In Trial"

Sunday, November 29

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups

10 a.m. – "In Readiness," with water baptisms

November Birthdays:

1 Nick Fausel
Autumn Lanzilotta
Shirley Avery
3 Zachary Lattin
4 Esmeralda Bentley
Trish Plummer
Donna Garrow
Lisa Garrow
Beth Underwood-Scott
Nadia Torres
5 Brian Short
6 Erin Wright
7 John Scott
9 Autumn Dovi
10 Hope Twitchell
14 Abigail Lattin
19 Emily Prince
Amy Lanzilotta
21 Pastor Joe Wright
Bailey Wright
Karen Huether
22 Kevin Corgel
26 Bonnie Eldred-Kress

November Anniversaries:

11/10/2007 Steve & Denise Lizzo
11/15/1962 Charles & Donna Bernhardt
11/24/2007 Brian & Erica Short
11/25/2010 Caesar & Zuleika Torres



November Events



Missions Convention Weekend

Saturday, November 7th 6:30 p.m.

International Desserts & Program

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a delightful evening of music, videos, trivia and missions testimonies while you enjoy international desserts.

Sunday, November 8th

Special Missions Speaker,

John Ginnan, missionary with Youth Alive.
Collect Faith Promise Commitment cards.

Sunday, November 8

Bake & Take!



Join Sara Ostrander Immediately after service to learn how to make a pie from scratch.
Open to all: Women, men, youth.

Annual Thanksgiving

Pie & Bake Sale, Wednesday, Nov 25

Calling All Bakers: If you're interested in baking pies, breads, rolls, or your specialty bake-sale item, **please sign up** in the foyer, or contact Sara Ostrander (607)592-1390.

Pre-orders: Sign up in the foyer, or contact Sara Ostrander (607)592-1390.

Payment: When you pick up your order.

Faith Promise

"I GIVE SO THEY CAN GO"

What is a Faith Promise?

*It is Scriptural. (2 Corinthians 8:12, 9:7–8)
*It involves every member.
*It is an act of faith. (Hebrews 11:6)
*It is an organized approach to missionary giving through the local church.

A Faith Promise is not:

*It is not a pledge. (Ecclesiastes 5:4–5)
*It is not something someone will come to collect. (2 Corinthians 8:12)
*It is not determined on the basis of what you know you can give.
*It is not taking from your present tithes and offerings to your church in order to give.

I want to make a Faith Promise.

What do I do now?

*Turn in your Faith Promise Commitment Card (found in foyer) on Sunday, November 8th , during the Worship Service.

AGWM ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WORLD MISSIONS

Sensitive Country, Names withheld

Live Dead/Africa

Supported by Groton AG

My wife and I are teammates as we strive to be effective in many areas of ministry: In our neighborhoods, in the shops (dukas), at our English center, at our Health Clinic, and with

Live Dead/Africa continued…
government officials who make decisions whether we can live and work here or not. We live in a culture that is relatively safe. On the other hand, the dominant thinking here is that "we are all the same," so no one feels the need to change. The predominately Muslim culture says, "we believe in Jesus. He was one of our prophets." Pray that God will continue to give us the words and wisdom to make Jesus known as Lord and Savior. Pray for our local friends to be saved. Pray for my wife to receive her work permit and residence visa this month!

Hope in Thailand!



Dinner with Dee and Dan!



Introducing myself to a congregation in Hat Yai

At 4:00 am on September 13th, I had to say some of the hardest goodbyes in my entire life before boarding my first flight to Thailand. I thank God for my family and friends, who are just as committed to the call to missions as I am. While "goodbye" is never easy, these relationships (and the many that have been formed through this itineration) are part of the foundation holding me up as I move forward in this transition to the field. Praise the Lord!

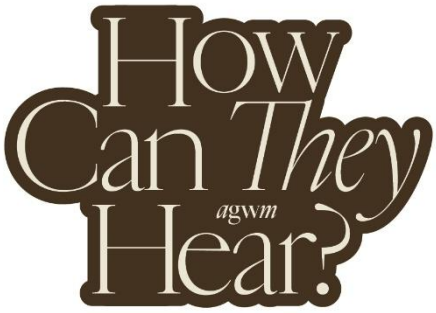
I made my way through security quickly and caught a 6:00 am flight to Chicago with my 6 pieces of checked luggage. From there, my next flight was to Tokyo, Japan, where I boarded my final flight to Bangkok, Thailand, arriving at 11:00 pm (Bangkok time) on September 14th. I coordinated with some of my closest missionary friends in Bangkok, Deanna and Dan Klepel, who helped me find a driving company that would deliver my luggage to Hat Yai. I stayed at their house for the next few days until it was time to fly to Hat Yai. I met up with my team leader, Niina, and we flew together from Bangkok to Hat Yai. After landing, I met up with the rest of my team, collected all of my luggage (everything made it!!), and settled into my apartment. My suitemate and teammate, Niki, has been the greatest gift in this transition as she is driving me everywhere (and teaching me how to drive!) while also translating for me. I can certainly say that I have a lot to learn as I begin my life here, but I can also say with confidence: *the Lord is my shepherd, and I lack nothing*.

Ministry Behind the Wall
First day on the ground in Bangkok, Deanna and Dan brought me to a Muslim Community (Slum) that is located behind the wall that borders their neighborhood. During my last visit to Bangkok over 4 years ago, Deanna and Dan had been praying for a way to enter this community (the entrance was hidden). Now, just weeks before my arrival, the Lord answered their prayers and showed them the way behind the wall. They brought me into the community with them to meet some of the individuals who had befriended them. One was this elderly lady who cooked lunch for us and spent time chatting with us, telling us stories. She grew very fond of me very fast

(even though I could hardly speak any Thai with her), and soon she was hugging me and feeding me with her own hands. I felt such affection for this woman (who I called Dah Doy, meaning Grandma Doy), and have continued to pray for this community, trusting that God will work through Deanna and Dan as they faithfully serve amongst these people.

Two Canadians

On the flight from Bangkok to Hat Yai, I was seated next to a Caucasian couple who sounded American based on their English. I prayed quickly, asking the Lord to present me with an opportunity to minister to them (it didn't seem like a coincidence that of all the people on the plane, I was seated next to two English speakers). Shortly after I prayed, God opened a door, and we began chatting about where we were from and why each of us was in Thailand. In short, I discovered that I was the SECOND pastor they had met on a plane in Thailand, and both of them had grandfathers who were pastors, but both of them had walked away from the faith at a young age. I shared a bit of my testimony and a snapshot of the gospel with them, then offered to pray for them. The woman accepted, asking for prayer for peace. When I finished praying for them, she looked at me and said, "I felt something while you were praying." There was hope in her eyes, so I continued to encourage her with what I had shared already about Jesus. Praise God for opportunities to minister to whomever He leads us to!



Visa Explained

While we have a plan in place, there have been some challenges regarding my visa. The current plan is for me to travel to Malaysia in the next month to pick up my student visa, since my language school will be the one sponsoring me. Thank you for praying with me for continued favor as we wait for my long-term visa to be processed

.Language, Songkhla, and the Deep Three

Lastly, there have been a lot of exciting plans being set into motion as I have begun to settle into life here! I have connected with my language school teachers, who are Christians serving in partnership with the YWAM base here in Hat Yai. We are hoping to start language classes 4 days a week in mid-October. I have also been meeting pastors from different churches across this province, including the pastor who I will be working with closely for the next three months as I continue to learn the language and culture. Pastor Manop (whom I will be working with) has asked me to disciple/mentor the youth, to support their Saturday outreaches, and to teach English in the community. I also have a friend pastoring a church in a red light district nearby; we are hopeful that I may get to come alongside her in ministering to the s*x workers as well. Additionally, Niki and I have been sharing about our passion for reaching the deep three provinces, where the largest percentage of unreached people groups remain in southern Thailand. She and I will be taking trips together starting in October to these regions to start building a spiritual map of what God is doing in these places.

PRAYER

*For my visa to be processed and received without any hiccups.
*For my language and culture learning to be swift and a blessing to those around me.
*For Pastor Manop and the church as I prepare to serve with them.
*For the Lord's covering and anointing and direction as I seek to serve in both the red light district and the deep three provinces, both of which share dangers/ risks.
*For relational connections with our apartment neighbors and community.



Sensitive Country, Southern Asia
Names Withheld
Supported by Groton AG

The past few months have been intense, to say the least. God has been stretching us to believe for Him to move the "mountains" from here to there. There have been seemingly impossible situations happening, yet God has continued to show Himself faithful again and again.

Financially, we have never had such a low ministry balance. Yet God has been prompting hearts, and many have given special offerings, provided extra support, or shared the need. Thank you. You have moved mountains.

[Husband] has spent 15 days visiting the Discipleship Center in Nepal, encouraging our staff, conducting conferences and trainings, and volunteering at the flood disaster-stricken area of Nepal. [Ed. Note: Nepal experienced two devastating flash floods in 2026. The catastrophic August 26, 2026, glacial collapse and flash flood, and a landslide and temporary dam breach caused a flash flood on October 11, 2026, killing over 1,400 people.] It will take years to recover from the deadly flooding. We know that God is at work in the brokenness.

[Wife] has been serving in a long-term substitute Kindergarten position at the kids' school since July. We knew this position, on top of our current ministry, would be a lot. Yet, she sees the hand of God in placing her at the school at this time. The moments of sharing truth, planting seeds, and listening to one little girl explain that Jesus is her savior are well worth the stretching.

This past week, officers entered a local peer church during their service and shut it down. Thankfully, it was done peacefully with no violence, but, unfortunately, the church remains closed. More and more threats and orders like these are being issued in our city and all across India as the government tries to close down churches and stop the spread of Christianity. Pray that God gives these churches, pastors, and believers wisdom and creativity in how to continue meeting and staying strong in the midst of persecution.

AGWM | LAC LATIN AMERICA CARIBBEAN

Terry and Bridget Rosch, Panama
Supported by Groton AG

On October 14, a 7.7 earthquake struck within Panama. Since that day, aftershocks are continuing and are in the hundreds. Just 2 nights ago there was a 6.3 registered, and we were right in the middle of it handing out food and water!

For the most part, we are visiting communities and encouraging pastors and parishioners. We are forging relationships so that when everyone else leaves we can be there to walk with them in their new normal. Pray against fear. Many are afraid to enter their homes. Pray for wisdom on how to proceed to be the best resource of help to those truly in need. Pray that through all of this, many will put their full trust and faith in Jesus.