

WHY IS NOW THE TIME TO **PRAY** FOR THAILAND?

“Thailand is a country where for many years we have not seen much break through, but now we sense God at work. It is amazing to see a number of Thais not only coming to honour Jesus but actually leading other Thais to faith. I’ve witnessed 800 young Thai believers meeting together for a day of **prayer**; it is incredible to see movements like these beginning.”

-THAI WORKER



God is moving in Thailand like never before; at least one person is coming to Christ every week, even every day in some places!

More than 170 years of evangelistic effort have been spent on Thailand and right now, we are seeing a slow, steady harvest. There is unprecedented interest in the gospel and more than 1,000 new churches have been started since the year 2000.

But the Thai are still one of the least evangelized people groups on earth. Only 0.5% of its 60 million people are believers and Buddhism has a strong grip. Breakthrough will only come by prayer and the power of God.

A growing missionary team is in place to take the work of God forward and many Thai Christians are passionate about evangelism and church planting. But can they do it without our prayer?

WE NEED TO **PRAY**
FOR THAILAND NOW.



NINE

 BLESSINGS
FOR THAILAND



Nine Blessings for Thailand Prayer Guide
© 2009 OMF INTERNATIONAL

ISBN 10: 0-85363-156-5
ISBN 13: 978-0-85363-156-9

All rights reserved, including translation. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system without written permission from OMF International (Station Approach, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 8BG, United Kingdom). Printed in the United States of America.

Scripture quotations are from New International Version of the Bible (unless otherwise noted), copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

OMF Books are distributed by:
OMF International, 10 West Dry Creek Circle, Littleton, CO 80120, USA
OMF International, Station Approach, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 8BG, United Kingdom
OMF International, P.O. Box 849, Epping, NSW 2121 Australia
OMF International, 5155 Spectrum Way, Bldg. 21, Mississauga, ON L4W 5A1, Canada
OMF International, P.O. Box 10159, Auckland, New Zealand
and other OMF Offices.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Why is Now the Time to Pray for Thailand?
2	Introduction to Thailand
3	Why Nine?
4	Kingdom
5	Light
6	Grace
7	Love
8	Truth
9	Life
10	Freedom
11	Righteousness
12	Contentment
13	2010 Vision
14	Opportunities
15	Contact Details
16	Additional Prayer Guides



WHY IS NOW THE TIME TO **PRAY** FOR THAILAND?

“Thailand is a country where for many years we have not seen much breakthrough, but now we sense God at work. It is amazing to see a number of Thais not only coming to honour Jesus but actually leading other Thais to faith. I’ve witnessed 800 young Thai believers meeting together for a day of **prayer**; it is incredible to see movements like these beginning.”

-THAI WORKER



God is moving in Thailand like never before; at least one person is coming to Christ every week, even every day in some places!

More than 170 years of evangelistic effort have been spent on Thailand and right now, we are seeing a slow, steady harvest. There is unprecedented interest in the gospel and more than 1,000 new churches have been started since the year 2000.

But the Thai are still one of the least evangelized people groups on earth. Only 0.5% of its 60 million people are believers and Buddhism has a strong grip. Breakthrough will only come by prayer and the power of God.

A growing missionary team is in place to take the work of God forward and many Thai Christians are passionate about evangelism and church planting. But can they do it without our prayer?

WE NEED TO **PRAY FOR THAILAND NOW.**

INTRODUCTION TO THAILAND

Thailand is ruled by a Monarchy and parliamentary system, much like the UK, and is divided into 76 provinces, grouped into five regions: central, east, north, northeast (Isaan) and south. While the central and northeastern regions are largely flat, fertile and densely populated, the Northwest and southern areas are much more mountainous.

The capital, Bangkok, lies in the central region and is home to much of Thailand's political, industrial and cultural activities. The Kingdom of Thailand is the only country in Southeast Asia never to have been taken over or colonized by a Western power.

Nearly 80 percent of Thailand's 63 million people are ethnic Thai. Chinese, Malay and other minority groups make up the remaining population. The official language is Thai and there are high levels of literacy throughout the country. Primary and secondary education is compulsory and government funded. The school system is well organized and comprises numerous universities and vocational training colleges. Around 60 percent of Thai people make their living

through agriculture, though this number is declining as mechanisation and industrial development increase.

The national religion of Thailand is Buddhism, which is followed, to some extent, by more than 95 percent of Thai people. Buddhism is prominent in every aspect of Thai culture; the Thai calendar for example is based on the Buddhist era rather than on the western Gregorian system. The year 2008 AD is known as 2551 BE in Thailand. There are only just over 300,000 Protestant Christians in Thailand, making up about 0.5 per cent of the population.



WHY NINE?

Thai people like the number nine. They like it in their house number, in their phone number, on their license plates and even on their shirt sleeves. Traditionally a Thai garden would have nine different and auspicious trees planted in a circle with a Jackfruit tree in the middle.



When Thai Buddhists make merit they like to have nine Buddhist monks chanting. The special royal umbrella has nine layers. The current King of Thailand is the 9th king in the Chakri dynasty and the 9th Thai king to be awarded the title, "The Great."

Nine is the auspicious, lucky number for the Thai. The number 99 is doubly good—a well known public figure recently made merit at 99 temples across Thailand in an attempt to change his luck. Six is bad luck, but it can be reversed to make nine for better luck.

There are nine topics in this booklet, each looking at a different issue facing Thailand today. We know that nine is not auspicious, but we hope that praying for nine different areas of blessing will give your intercession a uniquely Thai feel.

Could you pray for nine minutes a day for nine days? Or organise nine hours of prayer for Thailand? Could you pray on the 9th, 19th or 29th of every month? Or

at nine in the morning and again at nine at night? Could you gather nine friends together to pray for Thailand? Do you know nine churches you could encourage to pray for the Thai people?

However you choose to use this material we wait expectantly for how God is going to respond.



KINGDOM

MAY THE BLESSING OF THE RULE OF THE KING of kings be established in Thailand. The Thai love their king and appreciate his rule. May they come to see the greater benefits that the rule of the King of kings can bring to them.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej was born in 1927, the younger son of HRH the Prince. Though he was born in the USA, he soon moved to Switzerland where he attended school. Bhumibol became king of Thailand in 1946 and was crowned on May 6, 1950.

Thailand is a Constitutional Monarchy much like the UK, but the Thai king is revered as almost semi-divine and is respected and loved by all Thai people. King Bhumibol Adulyadej has ruled for more than 60 years, during which time he has traveled widely overseeing developmental projects in agriculture, environment, public health and education. He has developed several patented systems for treating waste water and rainmaking and is credited with making significant political interventions especially during the democratic turmoil of the 1990s. The king is an important factor in Thai social stability. In his 80s though, the king's health is becoming increasingly fragile.

The king has been given many awards, including the Bronze Wolf (2006), the highest award from the World Organization of the Scout Movement, for his contribution to the Thai National Scout Organization. He is an accomplished jazz musician and composer and won a gold medal for sailing in the fourth SEAP games (1967).



DANIEL 7:14

He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples and nations worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Mr. Montri suffered from leprosy, excluded from society and nicknamed "Angle Dung" by his neighbours. He had little hope of ever making a significant social contribution.

But Mr. Montri came to the Manorom Christian Hospital for treatment. As the doctors and nurses cared for him, demonstrating Christ's love, Mr. Montri became a Christian. So touched by how his life had been transformed, he joined the leprosy ministry team at the hospital.

After several years, Mr. Montri became the pastor of a local church. The congregation was originally all leprosy patients, but soon others who had never had the disease began to join. Though the taunts of "Angle Dung" echoed in his heart, Mr. Montri persevered, gently sharing the gospel with everyone he could.

In recognition of the contribution the many leprosy programmes made to Thailand, King Bhumibol Adulyadej created an award. Various doctors, nurses and others who had been involved in leprosy aid were invited to a special audience with the king. Mr. Montri was one of those chosen to attend. To be seated in front of the king was a rare honour, especially for one despised as a leper. But Mr. Montri knew that that memorable day with King Bhumibol was just a foretaste of the day when he will kneel in gratitude before the King of kings.



PRAY

- Pray for the king and his family to enjoy good health and well being.
- **Pray for the king in his role as protector of all religions in Thailand.**
- Pray for the country's unity, and the influence the king has in maintaining this.

PRAY

- Pray for the Thai, who love their earthly king, but do not know the King of kings.
- **Ask God to give opportunities for the Thai people to hear the gospel presented creatively, interactively and in ways that will touch their hearts.**
- Pray that God's kingdom will be established in Thailand.

LIGHT

MAY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ENLIGHTEN the hearts of the Thai people. There is a spiritual darkness that can be felt throughout Thailand. Buddhism is a religion looking for enlightenment. Christ is the “Light of the World.”



There are more than 31,000 Buddhist temples in Thailand, and though there is religious freedom, Buddhism is supported by the State. It is widely believed that to be Thai is to be Buddhist. From childhood, every Thai is taught the five Buddhist precepts: do not steal, do not lie, do not commit adultery, do not kill and do not drink alcohol and so these precepts, along with the idea that karma, the law of cause and effect, explains everything, have come to under-gird Thai society.

Though the Buddhist ideal is to seek enlightenment, most think it is beyond them to achieve it and will not even try. They feel blessed to hear the five precepts being chanted but will not carry them out. Desire, after all, is the root of all suffering, so it is best to be detached and emotionally uninvolved. The Thai frown upon passionate, emotional reactions.

Much of Thai Buddhist culture is actually a syncretistic mix of traditional Buddhism, folk lore and many animistic practices. Some Buddhist shrines will be adorned with thousands of phallic images. These icons have roots in the fertility cults prominent before Buddhism took over, but they will still be worshipped without any concern about being un-Buddhist. Most Thai people just want blessing, prosperity and good health.

Despite the prominence of Buddhism in every aspect of Thai culture, there are now just over 300,000 Protestant Christians in Thailand.

JOHN 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

Boonma entered the monkhood seeking enlightenment and truth. He was in an order of monks that traveled throughout the country and lived in temporary shelters. But the longer he was a monk, the more disillusioned he became. He found it hard to keep the five basic precepts, let alone the 200 rules required of him as a monk.

After just over a year of living in the monastery, Boonma was disillusioned and no closer to enlightenment. He disrobed and left the monastery.

Shortly thereafter he noticed a loss of feeling in some spots on his skin. Seeking help for this

he went to a Christian skin clinic.

The bad news was that he had leprosy. But the good news was that medicine could cure him. The best news though was the gospel that the Christians at the clinic shared with him. Every month when he went to get his medicine, he looked forward to hearing more about Christ. After more than a year of thinking about the gospel, he received the enlightenment he'd been looking for. His life was transformed by the light of Christ. Boonma now travels throughout Thailand preaching the gospel.

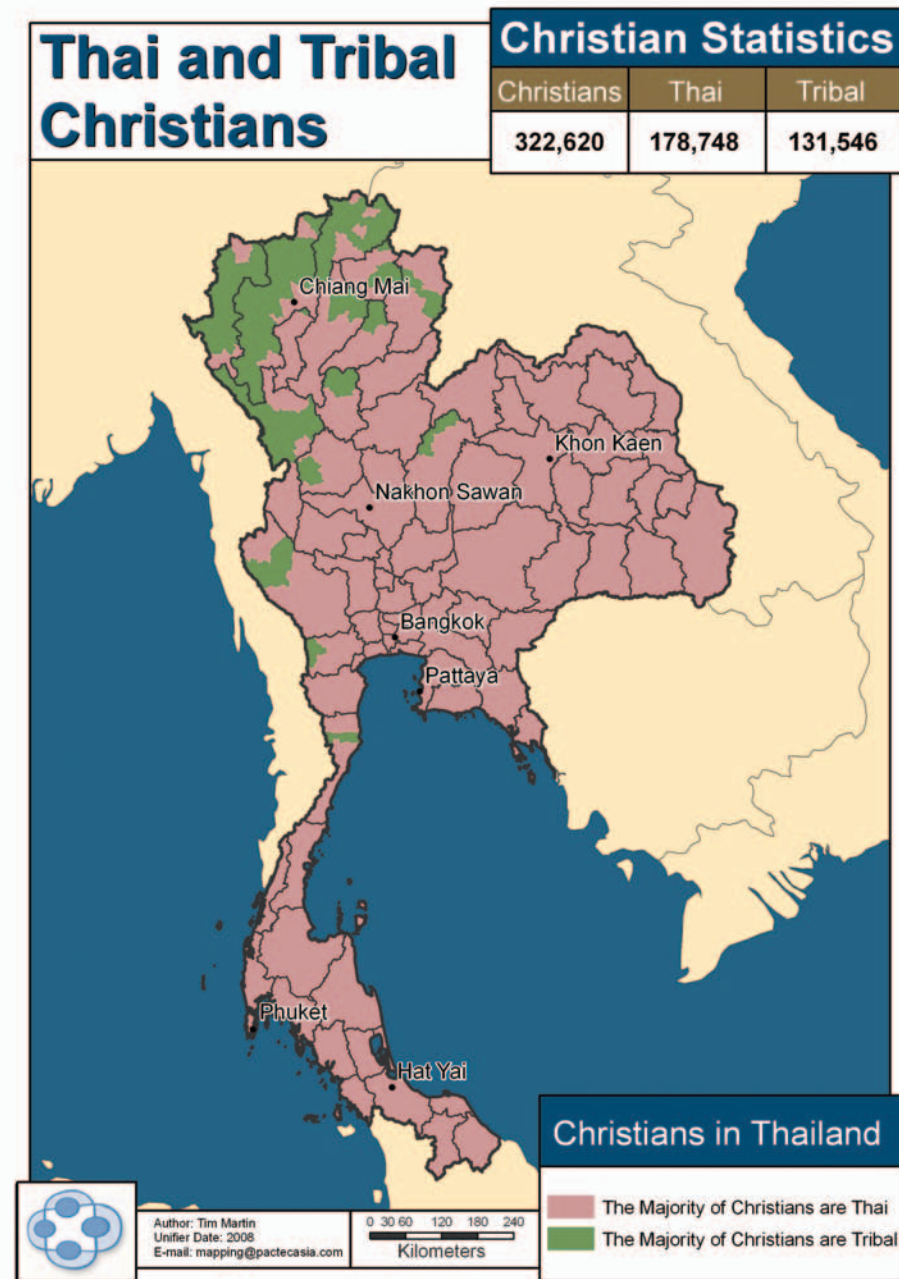
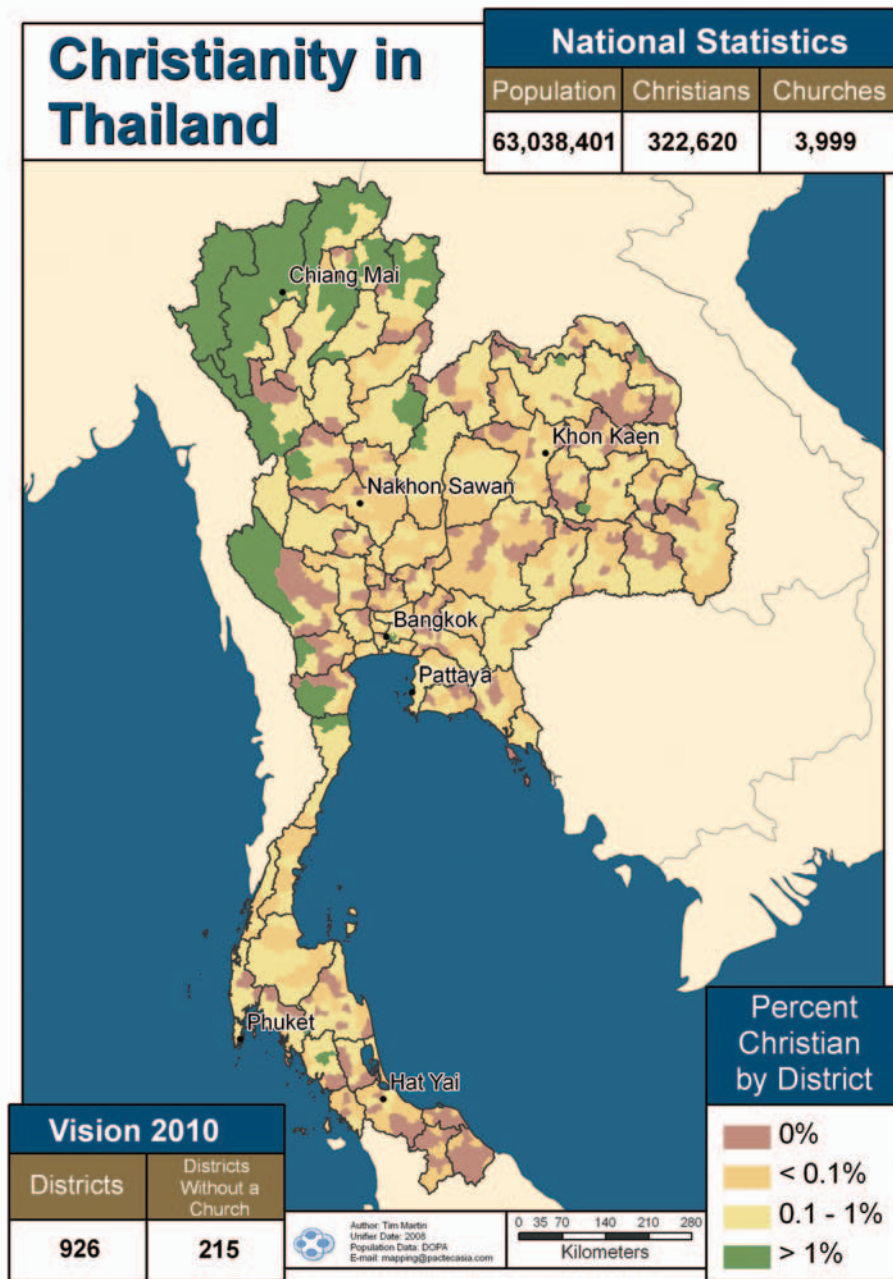


PRAY

- Ask the Holy Spirit to truly enlighten the Thai people.
- Ask God to equip Thai Christians so they can communicate the gospel in ways that are appropriate to the Buddhists they are reaching.
- Ask Christ to shine his light on the Thai people.

PRAY

- Pray for the monks who are seeking the truth, ask that they be enlightened by the Holy Spirit and pointed towards the Lord Jesus.
- Ask God for opportunities for Christians to share the gospel with Buddhist monks, nuns and others who are whole-heartedly following Buddhist teachings.



GRACE

MAY THE GRACE OF GOD COME to and through the church. May the Thai church live the Christian life passionately and contagiously. May they be full of grace upon grace from God. May this grace be seen in how they love, accept, forgive and forbear with others.



Incredibly, 25 percent of all Protestant churches in Thailand did not exist before the millennium.

In 2000 a young Thai pastor and a new missionary, started a church on the north side of Bangkok. As the small church graciously welcomed everybody and treated them like family, more and more people started attending. After eight years they sent out a new leader and two families to start a new church in a near by community. They have a vision to start two more new churches over the next few years.

Despite remarkable growth Christians still make up less than one percent of the population. Most Thai churches remain small, with between 30 and 50 members. More than 10,000 sub-districts in Thailand still have no church, and more than 100,000 villages have no Christian meeting.

About 41 percent of the Thai protestant Christians are from ethnic minority groups, which make up less than four percent of the population. These Christians are largely grouped in North Thailand, while the majority ethnic Thai community and the Muslim community in the South are largely unreached.

The Thailand Evangelism Committee has set a vision: for there to be a church in every district, a Christian group in every sub-district and a witness in every village by the end of 2010.

JOHN 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Suchart was a drunk and his wife, Noi, was unhappy. When some friends invited Noi to church in Bangkok it was a great excuse for her to get away from her husband, so she accepted. It was a two hour journey, so Noi left early in the morning to take the train to the city centre.

Slowly Noi began to understand more of what the Christians were saying. The Lord Jesus can forgive sins and change lives. Could he change her life? Even her husband's life?

But Suchart was annoyed. Every Sunday Noi wasn't there to look after him when he woke up hung-over. He demanded that she not go, but the more pressure he put on her, the more she wanted to go. Noi kept on until Suchart agreed to go with her.

So one Sunday they took the train together. Suchart had a pounding headache and was in a foul mood. The singing was too loud. The sermon did not make sense. Like all visitors to this church, he was invited to a small room where a leader explained the grace of God and invited them to pray that God would make himself known to them.

While Suchart was praying, he saw Jesus. He saw his scarred hands graciously welcoming him and knew that he had to follow. Suchart's life was transformed.

Suchart and Noi have begun to plant church in their district; one of many districts of Thailand where none exists.



PRAY

- Give thanks for the growth of new churches in Thailand.
- Pray that these new churches will become reproducing churches.
- Pray that God would fulfill the vision of the Thailand Evangelism Committee.
- Ask God to give Thai Christians from ethnic minorities a burden to reach the Thai majority.

PRAY

- Ask God to reveal his grace to people across Thailand.
- Pray that the Thai church will be open to all, without legalism or prejudice, and with abundance of grace and forgiveness.
- Ask God to give Christians the desire to study the scriptures and to reach out to others.

LOVE

MAY THE LOVE OF GOD BE POURED into every heart. Thai society is similar to many societies; there are a great many broken people. May God's love touch the hearts of mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters.



There are about 200,000 prisoners in 137 prisons across Thailand, 20 percent of prisoners are women. More than 1 million Thai people are HIV positive, and it has become fashionable in Thailand for men to take second and even third wives.

Estimates of the number of prostitutes working in Thailand range from 80,000 to 2.8 million. Most of these women migrate from the rural areas to the cities to earn money to support

their families. Their families may not approve of the work, but they enjoy the money it provides. An increasing number of university students are becoming involved in prostitution, often working as mistresses, in order to pay their tuition fees.

In a recent survey, two thirds of high school students reported they had experienced domestic violence. Of this third, most suffered depression, were involved in drugs or alcohol abuse and struggled with suicidal thoughts.

The Bangkok Post reported, "Thai people live a life that is increasingly separated from Buddhist teachings. The proof is in the sharp rise in crime, widespread corruption, domestic violence especially against women and children, proliferation of gambling, promiscuity and the unprecedented obsession with occult practices and talismans."

ISAIAH 61:1

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.

Pim was a dancer in Bangkok. By dancing and sleeping with customers she made enough money to support her mother who lived in a village outside the city. Inevitably, Pim contracted HIV. When she became very ill, she went to the Aids Temple in Lopburi for treatment, but there was little that could be done. When her mother realised there was no hope left, she took Pim back home.

In Pim's hometown, a group of Christians had begun a weekly meeting. Pim and her mother watched and listened to the Christians, but for several years remained unresponsive. Then one day they finally opened their hearts to receive God's love. Pim had rarely spoken in all the years she had been coming to the group, but as she took off the superstitious amulet from around her neck, she repeated slowly, "my mother and I are children of God, Jesus is our protector now."

Nothing much has changed for Pim physically. She is still gaunt, blind and frail. But every time the Christians visit she eagerly greets them and joins the cell group for fellowship. Since neither Pim nor her mother can read, they listen to the Bible on CD together every day, praying together every evening. Both are confident of God's love for them in Jesus Christ and are reaching out with other local Christians to share the gospel with those around them.



PRAY

- Pray for God's love to heal the hearts of families broken apart by adultery.
- Ask God to help Christians share his love with prisoners.
- Pray that those involved in ministry to orphans would be good role models of love and integrity.

PRAY

- Pray for Christians to boldly proclaim God's grace and love.
- Ask God for workers who will reach out to women and children at risk of exploitation.
- Pray that God would turn the hearts of the Thai men who use prostitutes.
- Ask God to comfort those with HIV and Aids.

TRUTH

MAY THE TRUTH OF GOD BECOME CLEAR. A Thai proverb says, “The truth never dies, but the one who speaks the truth must die.” May the Thai come to see how this was fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus, who is the Truth.

About 93 percent of Thai people can read, but for many, reading is not something they enjoy. Instead they would read little more than comic strips, newspapers or gossip magazines.

But literature is still a significant evangelistic tool; 67 percent of Thai converts to Christianity say that it was a significant factor in their journey to faith. Bibles, gospel tracts, comic-style Bible stories, testimony books and Christian newspapers are available in Thai, but most bookstores only stock Buddhist teachings. Efforts to distribute Christian literature to secular book shops have been well received, but a lot more work still needs to be done.

Every Sunday morning there is a government sponsored Christian TV show. There are restrictions on Christian broadcasting though, and only recently have Christian groups had the freedom to broadcast overtly Christian programmes from local community radio stations. Internet sites such as www.kwamjing.net are also helping Thai people connect with Christianity.



One third of the Thai population is under 25 years old. More than 1.6 million students are enrolled at universities across Thailand, but more than 50 percent of these are based in Bangkok. Student work is happening in many of the top universities in Bangkok but there are hundreds of less prestigious schools across Thailand where almost nothing has been done.

JOHN 8:32

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

As a teenager, Noot went to the big winter festival in Lopburi. She enjoyed shopping, buying food from the vendors' and watching the special shows. She always made a point of going to the stall where the Christians gave out free literature. She would only approach the stall when there were lots of others around so she could avoid talking to anybody and just slip away with a leaflet.



At home she would carefully read the leaflet, puzzled and fascinated by the message. Is it true there is a creator God? Can a person be forgiven? Can you have a new life? Noot would carefully store each new leaflet away with all the other she had collected in previous years, so she could read them again the following year.

Noot's life wasn't easy though. Her father was an alcoholic and her parents fought constantly. Pressure built up and Noot couldn't see a way out. Then one day she remembered her stash of leaflets. Pulling them out, she read them again. The messages about sin and salvation, judgement and hope touched her again. Could Jesus be the answer for her? For her family? She resolved to go to the Christian church in her town and see if the message was true. After a month of watching the Christians live, and getting the answers to her many questions, Noot was convinced the gospel was true and asked to be baptised.

PRAY

- Pray for the gospel to be communicated imaginatively.
- Pray that TV and radio programmes will bring people to Christ in areas where there are no churches.
- Ask God for effective student ministry across all of Thailand's technical and vocational colleges and universities.

PRAY

- Pray that Christian literature will be effectively distributed.
- Ask God to help Thai Christians keep on despite cultural and family pressure.
- Pray for children's work across Thailand. Many who turn to Christ as adults heard the gospel first as children.

LIFE

MAY THE ABUNDANT LIFE OF CHRIST COME to Thailand. About 60 percent of Thai people make their living in agriculture. May they come to know the source of life and receive the abundant life that Christ offers them.

Thailand is the world's largest exporter of rice, producing about 18 million tonnes each year. Sugarcane, corn, pineapple and shrimp are other significant exports.



Thailand was once one of the main producers of Marijuana and opium and the drug trade fuelled much violence, crime and corruption within the country. The Thai government has introduced incentives to encourage farmers to grow non-drug crops and in 1987 the King received an international award for his efforts in this area, but the money available makes drug production very alluring.

In northeast Thailand about 85 percent of farmers are unable to meet their basic needs by agriculture alone. Most only survive by sending family members to work in the cities as factory workers, taxi drivers or dancers, sending money home to supplement the family income.

Christian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are helping rural development by drilling wells, teaching community health and setting up craft projects, sharing the gospel as they work. But the task is enormous. In Isaan, the northeastern region of Thailand, there are more than 10,000 rural villages without any Christian witness.

Many rural churches also face financial difficulties and cannot afford to pay those involved in running the church. Though they are seeing fruit from evangelism and outreach, as many people migrate to the cities to find work, the churches remain small in numbers and often lose the most able and energetic.

JOHN 10:10

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Somsii grew up in the countryside. She loved nature and enjoyed watching the clouds and looking up at the stars. But something bothered her. The Buddhist monks had no answer for how it was that all this beauty and goodness existed. And when she asked, they told her not to ask such questions. But her heart longed to know.

Somsii got married. She loved her husband and her children. But her questions still nagged at her. The goodness of family love and the wonder of reproduction; how could these just be turning the wheel of suffering? She could not understand the Buddhist answers.



One day, she went to visit her children, who were grown and living in Bangkok. She missed the countryside and all its beauty, but even the concrete jungle could not prevent the sun from shining or the rain from falling. And there were even still some birds singing every morning. Where did this life come from?

One day as she walked through the market, a man gave her a leaflet. It said that God had made the world and everything in it. It said he had created Adam and Eve and that they were naked and not ashamed, but then they disobeyed God and bought trouble into the world. Somsii knew immediately that this was the missing piece. She wrote to the address on the leaflet and was sent more literature. She studied it over and over. Finally Somsii knew the truth. "Lord, Creator," she prayed, "thank you for goodness, for life itself. Please be my saviour, Lord Jesus."

PRAY

- Ask God for opportunities in rural Thai communities that are as yet unreached.
- Pray that NGOs will have integrity and compassion as they work and that they will model a vibrant, life-giving faith.
- Pray for rural churches in the challenges they face and their encouragement as they face practical issues.

PRAY

- Ask God to provide literature, TV programmes, radio broadcasts and other media to reach areas where no Christians live.
- Ask God to show himself through his creation.
- Pray for good integration of media and local Christian witness.

FREEDOM

MAY THE FREEDOM OF THE LORD DELIVER those in bondage. Thailand means “land of the free,” yet many are in bondage to fear, spirit worship and addictions. May they come to know the liberty that Christ gives from sin, death and the devil.

About 20 billion baht (nearly \$600 million US dollars) is spent on amulets every year in Thailand. These amulets are worn around the neck to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck. Many Thai people live in fear of the spirit world.

During the opening ceremony for the new Bangkok International Airport, 99 Buddhist monks were chanting for the blessing of the airport when a man appeared quivering and began to speak, claiming to be the guardian spirit of the land the airport was built on. He ordered that a spirit house be built at the airport if they wanted it to operate smoothly. It was done, just as he commanded.

In 1995 a Buddhist monk was arrested for using the body of a still-born baby to invoke the ghost, Kumarn Tong. The gruesome ritual was used to create a purported love potion. One drop on a person's skin is believed to make that person fall in love with whoever touched them with the oil.

The Thai are not just in spiritual bondage. An official health survey recorded almost 2.6 million drug abusers across Thailand and four percent of five to nine year olds experimenting with methamphetamines. Many, including 24 percent of Thai university students, are addicted to gambling and even traditional rites such as funerals will involve several days of betting and wagering. During Euro 2008, more than 500 million baht (15 million US dollars) was placed in bets.



LUKE 4:18-19

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim **freedom** for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.



As a teenager, Sunantha got involved with the spirits. When they came into her, she loved the feeling of power it gave her. She immediately got other people's respect in case she used the spirit's power to curse them and it was a lucrative business entering a spirit trance and telling people's fortunes.

But the spirit became more and more demanding. It forbade her from eating certain foods and forced her to complete rituals to please it. She had to borrow money to meet its demands and if she left any unmet, it would punish her, hunching her over until she could complete the right ceremony.

One day while Sunantha was bent over by the spirit, her brother, Somchai, came to see her. He had had a spirit living in him too, a spirit that craved sex, alcohol and reckless living. He had been too drunk to hold down a job and was constantly fighting with other men because of his adultery. But something remarkable had happened. Some Christians had prayed and Jesus had cast out the spirit. Somchai had become a Christian and now he was free! He gave Sunantha a copy of the Bible, and prayed in Jesus name for her to be able to stand up. And straight away she did!

As soon as her brother left, Sunantha pleaded for Jesus to cast out the spirits. She began to read the Bible and as she prayed, she was released from the spirits and has been free ever since.

PRAY

- Pray that Thai people would know the freedom that Christ brings; from the wrath of God, the fear of death and from evil.
- Ask God to equip churches to help people toward the freedom Christ has bought for them.
- Ask God to free addicts of all kinds: drug, alcohol, gambling, and sex.

PRAY

- Pray for those with troubled lives, whatever the cause.
- Pray for those who have been sexually abused to find healing in Christ.
- Ask God to equip and empower those involved in healing and deliverance ministries.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

MAY GOD BLESS THE THAI with **righteousness**.

Recently several Thai leaders were charged with corruption. In the past many leaders felt they were above the law, but this is slowly changing in Thailand. May the thousands of people involved in Thai government do what is right and just.

Thailand was ruled by a benign military dictatorship until 1973, when efforts to establish a democratic system ushered in two decades of military coups and political and social unrest. As the parliamentary government has become established and new policies introduced, stability has returned. The general election in 2001 was heralded as the most corruption-free election in Thai history, and the 2005 election had the highest turn out of voters. Being the most corruption free though, does not mean it was free of corruption; it is rumoured vote-buying still occurred which probably encouraged the high turnout.

But in recent years, separatist groups, crime and personal vendettas have all lead to turbulence and conflict, especially in the south. Corruption charges lead to a military coup in 2006, that abrogated the constitution, dissolved parliament and established a caretaker government, all without bloodshed. In August 2007 a new democratic constitution was initiated, but political tension still exists with claims of political corruption, bribery and partiality.

The former Thai Prime Minister commented on the political troubles, saying, "Be patient with this headache-inducing situation. Mars moving closer to Saturn causes the headache. When Mars leaves, the situation will ease." Such astrological reasoning does not seem strange to many Thai who consult fortune tellers and astrologers for even the most menial of situations. Government decisions will often be influenced by astrology, magic spells, superstitious beliefs and charms, and politicians will often consult spirit mediums in an effort to control events.



PSALM 37:6

He will make your **righteousness** shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.



Shortly after finishing university, Manote moved to a small town of about 40,000 people where he began work as an administrator at a small Christian hospital. After 10 years the hospital shut down and Manote had to find a new job.

As he was praying about what to do, some local leaders came to him, asking that he run as their candidate for mayor. After a good deal of discussion, he decided to accept their request. It seemed unlikely that he would be elected; he was widely known as a Christian and most people were antagonistic to the small group of believers even if they did not show it outwardly. But to Manote's surprise he was elected. He suspected that some scandalous

behaviour by those already in government may have helped his campaign, but resolved to govern fairly and for the benefit of the community.

In Thai culture the inferior must give honour to the superior, so Manote tried to be different as a Christian by greeting all with honour and serving without respect to position. A man who had worked as a street-sweeper in the town for 35 years was retiring. Calling the man to his office, Manote thanked him for his years of service. The man started to weep. He had worked for 10 different mayors, but Manote was the only one to even acknowledge that he existed! Manote was able to explain the gracious love of God for all men, no matter who they are.



PRAY

- Pray that the Thai rulers will govern justly and for the benefit of the whole country.
- Pray that genuine religious freedom in Thailand would continue.
- Ask God to give Thai Police and Military Christian Fellowship integrity and boldness to live and speak for Christ.

PRAY

- Pray that more civil servants will turn to Christ and for the Christians to be exemplary in their work and attitudes.
- Ask God to touch the government of Thailand and the thousands of people in government offices, including clerks, nurses, and teachers.

CONTENTMENT

MAY THE LORD BLESS the Thai people with contentment. Money often seems to be the only measure of success, and to make money is the sole aspiration and justification for any action in many Thai lives.



Jatukham Rammathep amulets are about the size of a coffee-cup lid and are believed to bring super wealth to the wearer. Normal amulets are worn under the shirt but these Jatukham are designed to be blatantly displayed. While costing only a few baht to make, they are sold for as much as 10,000 baht (about \$300 US dollars), more than most Thais monthly wage. In 2007 sales of these amulets were so feverish, that one woman was crushed to death by a crowd trying to get the amulets at the Nakhon Si Thammarat temple. The Revenue Department even started to tax amulet sales, rather than giving the tax exempt proceeds to the Buddhist temples. Phra Payon Kalayano, the abbot who launched edible Jatukham cookies, joked “When some temples want a

new building they use Jatukham to raise funds.”

However, 15 percent of the Thai population live below the poverty line and credit card debt is becoming an increasing problem. Always looking for ways to save money, The Thai often cut corners.

But people are finding contentment in Christ. Anchalee Jongkakeekij, known as the Queen of Rock, became a Christian in 1990. She has used her singing to share her faith and led famous DJ Hataya Wongkrachang to faith in 1998. Today there are a number of Christian celebrities in Thailand, including Boyd, a singer-songwriter; model Saithon; Kobchai, the CEO of a chain of Department stores and Prapruti, a billiards champion.

PSALM 84:10-12

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. The Lord bestows favour and honour. O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.

Twenty-two-year-old, Boy, was in the midst of Thai New Year celebrations, drinking and racing around on his motorcycle. But swerving round a corner he lost control of his bike. Boy was paralysed. His friends and family soon stopped visiting, and he was left lonely and hopeless in hospital.



Some Christians met Boy in the hospital as they went round visiting the patients. They would chat with him and tell him of God's love and care for him. After several visits, Boy became a Christian. Boy also met a woman called Bird, who agreed to live with him and look after him. Boy needed Bird's full-time care, but couldn't afford to pay her. Out of compassion she agreed to stay with him, but that left neither with any income. They lived in a small shack with a dirt floor and slowly, in their discontent, they started to drift away from Christ. One day, in despondent frustration, Boy slashed his legs with a cleaver.

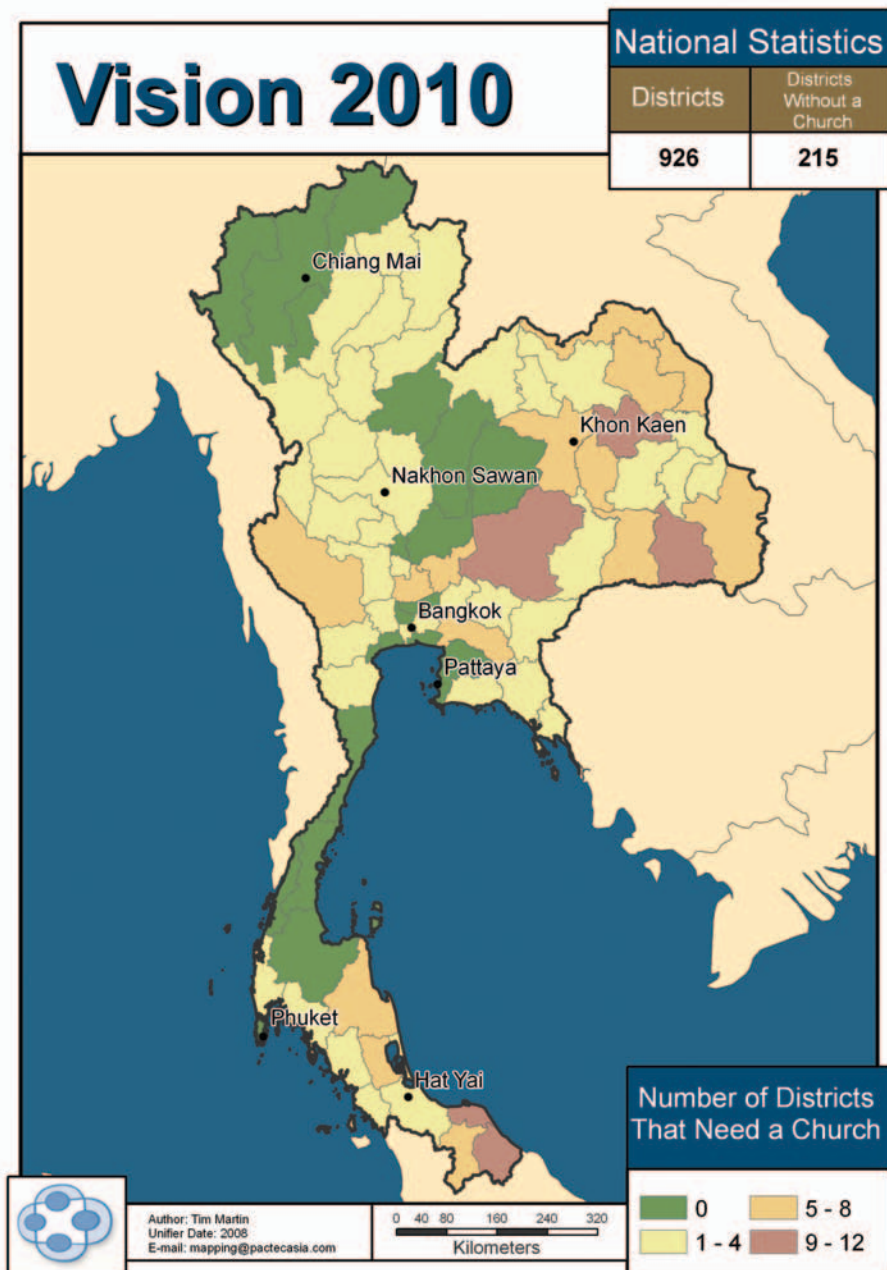
He was rushed to the hospital, and the members of the small church came as soon as they heard. They raised funds to buy Boy a wheel chair and made preparations for Boy to return home. They bought him some music equipment and by singing in the local market Boy now earns a little money. Boy doesn't just sing secular tunes, he also sings songs of praise to God. He finally knows the source of contentment in all circumstances.

PRAY

- Ask God to free Thai Christians from the love of money.
- Ask God to help new Christians break sinful habits and addictions.
- Pray for Thai who have travelled abroad to make money, particularly in Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Australia, the UK and the USA; that they would hear the gospel and bring it home.

PRAY

- Pray that Christians will rejoice in what they have and to be good stewards.
- Pray for those who are marginalised from society and excluded from the benefits of Thailand's burgeoning economy.
- Pray for Lydia House, a ministry in Bangkok seeking to help the unemployed.



2010 VISION

The Thailand Evangelism Committee have set a vision: for there to be a church in every district, a Christian group in every sub-district and a witness in every village by the end of 2010.

OPPORTUNITIES

THAILAND NEEDS WORKERS. Workers with faith; people who live out their faith in daily acts of trust in God.

Workers who are joyous, gregarious, and fun loving; the word for work and party is the same in Thai. The land of a thousand smiles needs people who are **friendly**, who enjoy meeting and spending time with others. Workers must be willing to push themselves out of their comfort zone to connect with people. Working alongside local Thai Christians, workers need to be committed to **fellowship**. And the work is dynamic. It changes all the time. So we need people who are **flexible**, adjustable, creative, willing to move and willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done.



Everything we do is based around evangelism and discipleship, in whatever form or figure this may take, whether in groups or one to one, in churches or on the street. There are many opportunities, but all with one aim: to see “a movement of indigenous, biblical churches reproducing among their own people in Thailand and reaching out in mission to other peoples.”

OMF International is looking for 100 new workers for Thailand, and here are just some of the opportunities.

SUPPORT

OMF International has 150 workers in Thailand, and they require back up in the form of financial administration, organising short-term teams, member development, medical care, language learning, home-school support, mobilization and communication, IT and child care.

NORTH THAILAND

There are more Christians and Christian workers in North Thailand than elsewhere in Thailand. But these are mostly amongst minority groups. The majority group of ethnic Thai have little chance to hear the gospel in their own language. OMF International workers give focus to these. Currently OMF International has 11 church planters in this

region, but would like to see this grow to at least 25 in the next three years.

ISAAN

Isaan is the rural area of north east Thailand and has over 100 districts without a church. The OMF International team is trying to use family networks to spread the gospel from one village to the next and establish churches led by the local believers. This team only has 5 workers but anticipate growth to at least 25 in the next three years.



CENTRAL SOUTH THAILAND

This area of the south has more than 20 districts without a church and over 25 districts with just one church. Most of the people in this region are Thai Buddhists, but speak a regional dialect. Currently OMF International has only eight workers in this region, but would like to see at least 25 workers there in the next three years.

BANGKOK

This is *the* city in Thailand. It is the capital and hub of everything and home to around 16 million people, most of them Thai Buddhists. Churches are evident in the city, but there is so much more to be done, with scope for traditional and more creative church planting. The OMF International team of 10 needs to grow to at least 25 over the next three years.

CENTRAL THAILAND

Since OMF International started work in this region in the 1950s, more than 60 churches have been established. But less than 0.5 percent of the people are Christians. There are currently 40 OMF workers in this region, divided into nine church planting teams, who are planting more than 18 churches. Some of these teams are lead by Thai Christians. Central Thailand also has a ministry amongst students which it hopes to expand not only within the central region but also into South and North Thailand. OMF International would like to see more than 50 workers in this region.



OMF INTERNATIONAL CENTRES

Thailand: PO BOX 1100, Don Muang, Bangkok 10211

Tel: +66 (0) 2928 5061 Email: th-sec@omf.net www.omf.org/thailand

Australia: PO Box 849, Epping, NSW 1710

Tel: 02 9868 4777 email: au@omf.net www.au.omf.org

Canada: 5155 Spectrum Way, Building 21, Mississauga, ONT L4W 5A1

Toll free: 1 888 657 8010 email: omfcanada@omf.ca www.ca.omf.org

Hong Kong: PO Box 70505, Kowloon Central PO, Hong Kong

Tel: 852 2398 1823 email: hk@omf.net www.omf.org.hk

Malaysia: 3A Jalan Nipah, off Jalan Ampang, 55000, Kuala Lumpur

Tel: 603 4257 4263 email: my@omf.net www.omf.org.my

New Zealand: PO Box 10159, Dominion Road, Balmoral, Auckland, 1030

Tel: 09 630 5778 email: omfnz@omf.net www.nz.omf.org

Philippines: QCCPO Box 1997-1159, 1100 Quezon City, M.M.

Tel: 632 951 0782 email: ph-hc@omf.net www.omf.org

Singapore: 2 Cluny Road, Singapore 259570

Tel: 65 6475 4592 email: sno@omf.net www.sg.omf.org

UK: Station Approach, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 8BG

Tel: 01732 887299 email: omf@omf.org.uk www.omf.org.uk

USA: 10 West Dry Creek Circle, Littleton, CO 80120-4413

Toll free: 1 800 422 5330 email: omfus@omf.org www.omf.org/us

OMF International Headquarters: 2 Cluny Road, Singapore 259570

Tel: 65 6319 4550 email: ihq@omf.net www.omf.org

OTHER PRAYER MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM OMF INTERNATIONAL



His Time for North Korea

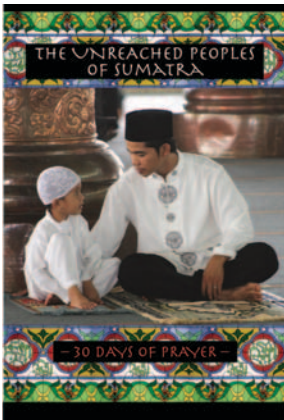
For decades this communist country has been subject to political tensions, sanctions and human rights concerns. Pray insightfully for North Korea's physical and spiritual needs

£2.00

Pray for China

China is experiencing one of the biggest revivals in world history. Yet more than 1.2 billion Chinese - nearly one-fifth of the world population - do not know Christ. Pray for the key issues facing China in the 21st century

£2.00



The Unreached People of Sumatra

Sumatra is home to more than 34 million Muslims and 75 different people groups. It is the least evangelised island on earth with 52 of its people groups unreached by the gospel.

£2.00

For more information visit www.omf.org.