

The Ethnic Thai of Thailand

The People Group

Thailand continues to be influenced by globalisation, urbanisation and alternative spiritualities. Half of the population lives and works in rural areas but the numbers moving to the cities continue to grow. While the majority of Ethnic Thai people identify as Buddhist their religious practices are influenced by animism, Thai folklore and Hinduism. Christianity is growing among Thailand's minority people but is yet to significantly impact the ethnically Thai.

Global Interaction team among the Ethnic Thai

The Ethnic Thai people enjoy good food, a good laugh and time with family and friends. Our cross-cultural team walk alongside the Ethnic Thai in daily life, building meaningful and lasting friendships. It is in these friendships, and through ongoing culture and language learning, that our team endeavour to live out the message of Jesus in both their words and actions.

There are now four growing faith communities who are exploring what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in a way that reflects their culture and heritage. Our cross-cultural team are working to empower these groups as they look to develop their own identity within the broader community and equip future leaders through training opportunities.

Prayer Needs

- Ethnic Thai people to come to know the power of Jesus and His offer of freedom from fear
- As the team looks for new ways to connect with the community, pray that they will encounter people who are open to exploring faith in Jesus
- Faith communities to be a good witness to their communities, prompting curiosity and interest from those around them
- Ethnic Thai leaders will be well equipped to lead the faith communities
- More people to commit to long-term cross-cultural work among the Ethnic Thai

Pray for the Team Members

Muana (team leader) and Villy
Dema and Carolyn
Glenn and Liz
Luke and Belle
Petina

Stories of Hope from Thailand

A New Person

The team's first contact with Nan T was through former cross-cultural workers Larry and Jan. When they first knew him, he was very shy and didn't like to participate in gatherings. Larry and Jan developed a good friendship with Nan T and journeyed with him through his spiritual exploration. Over years, his knowledge of Jesus grew through conversations and reading the Bible.

The change in Nan T's life and behaviour from when the team first met him to now, has greatly amazed them. After he gave his life to Jesus, he became a new person! From being someone who didn't even like having a meal at someone's home, to someone who loves the fellowship of others and the faith community and uses his skills to support others. He has also become one of the faith community leaders and confidently teaches from the Bible and actively shares the love of God with others through acts of service.

The team celebrates that earlier this year, Nan T declared his faith in Jesus and was baptised. Praise God for the work He has done and continues to do in Nan T's life and how He is using the team to share the Good News among the Ethnic Thai.

New Way, New Hope and New Life

We pray that hearts will be open to receiving the Good News; and that a new way, a new hope and a new life will be revealed to them.

Mae Phan is a local Ethnic Thai believer. Together with Glenn and Liz, Mae Phan attends regular fellowship and has recently invited her son to join them. Nong A is a novice monk, he knows his mother has a heart for Jesus and he has accepted the invitation to join her and others to learn more. During a recent fellowship, to our delight, he has shared a passage that he has been reading in the Bible. These are early days in his exploration and understanding of who Jesus may be for him.

We ask all of our prayer partners to keep Mae Phan and Nong A in your prayers. We rejoice that Mae Phan will bear witness to her son, and that he will continue to seek understanding of the Bible as he reads it and the fellowship of our team. We pray that his heart will be open to receiving the Good News; and that a new way, a new hope and a new life will be revealed to him.

**>>> For more stories of barriers being overcome,
visit: www.globalinteraction.org.au/News**