

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

Our work among the Ethnic Thai takes place in two settings, urban and rural.

This ministry is marked by a commitment of the cross-cultural workers to following Jesus in all aspects of their lives and inviting others to do the same. To do the latter, the team continually learns about Ethnic Thai culture and language, fosters relationships with its neighbours and shares God's Word to those who will listen.

There are a number of Ethnic Thai faith communities meeting together regularly and the team seek to disciple these believers to follow Jesus in a way that is deeply linked to their cultural identity. They empower future leaders and facilitate training to equip them to become faithful witnesses and grow their faith communities.

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

Paul (Short-term visitor based in Australia)

Petina

Stories of Hope from Thailand

Following the Same God

Last year one of the Ethnic Thai faith community leaders, Long, married Min. It had been his prayer for several years to be married and the team joined him in this prayer. Min and Long's wedding was a significant event as it was the first wedding of a believer from the faith community. While Min was on her own spiritual journey and supportive of Long's faith, she had not made a decision towards Jesus when they got married. She had grown up in a village where she had heard the name of Jesus, but had never had the opportunity to understand who He was.

Over the past year, Min has formed good relationships with the team and they have taken many opportunities to share the message of Jesus with her and show His love to her. Recently she came to faith and made the decision to follow the same God as Long and be baptised. It's amazing to hear her share how her life holds more meaning now that she knows Jesus.

Pray for Long and Min as they lead a faith community in Thailand and that many more will take a journey to experience the transforming power of Jesus.

Slowly Faith Grows

Over time, the team serving among the Ethnic Thai have developed a good friendship with Mrs B. Although she was very friendly and generous towards the team and other believers in the community, she initially told them that she was not interested in Jesus. She began allowing her granddaughter to be involved with the faith community, though she did not take part herself. Each week, she seemed interested to hear about what her granddaughter was involved in at the faith community.

Team member Petina previously lived next door to Mrs B and her granddaughter. After spending time in Australia on Home Assignment, Petina was extremely excited to find out that now both Mrs B and her granddaughter are regularly involved in the faith community.

Thank God for the way He is opening up Mrs B's heart to learn more about Him and using the team to share His love with her and her granddaughter. Pray that the team will be sensitive to the Spirit's leading as they build friendships within the community.

**>>> For more stories of barriers being overcome,
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