



LARRY AND JAN

Serving in Thailand

“Larry and I are living in a rural district in Thailand that has no church or, prior to our being here, any Christian witness. It is our desire to see a community of believers birthed in this area, and for them to worship God, relate to believers and their communities in ways that are culturally appropriate and which will lead others into a saving relationship with Jesus.”

Jan wrote these words early in 2006. Since that time, she and Larry along with their colleagues, have seen the beginnings of the fulfillment of their dream for ethnic Thai people. They have seen a few people have a profound encounter with Jesus that has changed their lives. Those believers are now exploring ways of being authentic followers of Jesus as well as thoroughly Thai culturally. The believers are passing on the message to others in their families and community.

Jan and Larry work with two other couples, Muana and Villy, John and Vicki. Members of the team engage with their community in a variety of ways – English teaching in local schools, hairdressing (Villy), farming activities (Larry), guitar teaching (Muana). They participate as much as possible in community events and festivities, and share with families in their celebrations and heartbreaks. They have built many strong friendships, and encourage people to explore with them the possibilities of new life and hope that Jesus offers.

While there has been Christian work in Thailand for more than a century, very few ethnic Thai people have come to know Jesus, for Christianity is often seen as foreign and irrelevant. Those ethnic Thai people who have come to know Jesus often worship in churches which are very western in style, reinforcing the idea that to be a Christian is to relinquish something of what it means to be Thai.

What an exciting adventure with God to see the few initial believers discovering how they can express their worship, faith and service in thoroughly Thai ways!

Jan has been in Thailand since 1986. She met Larry, who is from USA, and they married in 1993. Their long experience in exploring what it means to present the gospel and nurture believers in culturally Thai ways has been a huge benefit to the whole Global Interaction team. Jan was for several years the leader of the Australian team, but has now passed those responsibilities on to Paul G so that she can focus more on her local ministry with Larry.