

Thai Diaspora News

FIRST EDITION

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Introduction...

The Thai are moving overseas in increasing numbers. Today **there are over half a million Thai people living outside Thailand**. This brings new opportunities to reach them with the love of Christ and to serve them while they have needs. Many are travelling for work or study which means that they need to learn the local language and culture, find new friends and ways to get things done.

OMF International now has a team which reaches out to **Thai people in the UK, Switzerland and Australia**. This is our OMF Thai Diaspora Ministry team. The hope is that they will find new life in Christ while they are overseas, and then go back to Thailand equipped to bring their family and friends to also know Christ.

The OMF Thai Diaspora Ministry Team

David and Mary Robinson robinsondavid@omf.net - *England and Wales*.

David and Mary are seeking to establish Thai fellowship groups here as part of the "Network of Thai Christians (UK)".

Sandra MacDonald macdonaldsandra@omf.net - *Scotland*. Sandra is involved in reaching Thai throughout Scotland and facilitates cell groups for Bible study and fellowship.

Christa Hardle hardlechrista@omf.net - *Switzerland*. Christa is working among Thai women and their Swiss husbands through a number of groups.

Johan Linder linderjohan@omf.net - *Australia*. Johan is working among students through teaching English and a Thai Christian Fellowship in Sydney.

Prayer Points

- For more workers for the International Thai Diaspora team especially in California where there are over a hundred thousand Thai people.
- For the development of good networks to help Thai Christian returnees when they return to Thailand.

'...he now had a living faith in the Lord.....he had experienced personally the wonder of belonging to the people of God...'



Mr Joy's Story...

Mr 'Joy' was miserable. As a young Thai man growing up in Bangkok, he had been taken to church by his parents but it was a rather formal place. It did not encourage him to find a living faith of his own. After completing his bachelor's degree in Thailand, he moved to the UK to do a master's degree at a university in the Midlands. Due to difficulties in English, studying in a Western way, and misunderstandings about his course, he despaired about his progress. He found it difficult to make friends, the weather was too cold for him, and the church he tried to attend took no interest in this 'different looking' outsider.

'Coincidentally' Mr Joy met a Thai believer, Mr Cedar, also studying at the same university. About the same time a church leader emailed us to say that Mr Cedar had visited his church, and wondered if we would like to be in touch with him. Two months later we went to the Midlands for a meal with Mr Cedar, and met Mr Joy as well. Eventually the two of them came to Manchester for a Thai Fellowship Day; Mr Cedar fitted in well – **Mr Joy was somewhat overwhelmed, as it was his first exposure to vibrant Christian fellowship.**

After that Mr Joy would not come to any more Fellowship Days. Mr Cedar had returned to Thailand, and Mr Joy said he was too scared to travel on the train by himself. We persevered with keeping in touch, and a local British Christian invited him to Christmas dinner. Another British Christian helped him with his thesis translation. **We then invited Mr Joy to come to the Thai believers Camp (in the Lake District), and amazingly he came!**

He greatly enjoyed it, and had a real experience of coming to know God personally. And God gave him a new boldness to travel on the trains by himself!! Everyone prayed further, and he passed his Master's degree. He then went on tour throughout the UK (by train!) to stay with all the Thai Christians he had met at camp.

At the last Fellowship Day before he returned to Thailand, he gave testimony to the fact that he now had a living faith in the Lord; and that he had experienced personally the wonder of belonging to the people of God – never in all his life had he experienced such loving care. **Now he was determined to serve the Lord back in his home country – as a 'joyful' man!**

Want to know more?

For more information about Thai Diaspora Ministries around the world, please contact the International Strategy Co-ordinator:

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