

Andre & Karen Provost

Thailand

“It has been my ambition to preach the Gospel where Christ is not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation.” Rom. 15:20

JANUARY 2020

Dear Friends,

We didn't realize what we were getting ourselves into when we made the decision to start evangelizing in Manachai's village. Manachai is our coworker. We just thought we would start where relationships already existed. When we arrived, the first thing we noticed was that Manachai did not speak Isan or Thai to his mother. He was speaking a totally unfamiliar language which turned out to be Suay, also known as Kui. Not only is it the language of his mother, but it turned out to be the language of almost everyone in that village and the surrounding villages.

On our next trip, we were invited by a friend Manachai knew from his school days. This led us to the next village. On arriving the next week, the friend was not there, but her father and mother were. We did a gospel presentation and they have invited us back. Later that week, we visited another Suay village and were received by another family who also invited us back after sharing a gospel presentation.

When I got home, I began to do research about the Suay people. There are 410,000 Suay in Thailand. They live in clusters of villages in our province and the two neighboring provinces. They are also considered an unreached people group. There is a church which worships in Suay in the next province. I called the pastor and he offered us some copies of the Suay Bible. We will visit him this week to pick up the Bibles and learn more about his work with the Suay. We also have access to copies of the Jesus film in the Suay language which we are planning to use. Please pray for Karen and me as we train Manachai in initiating a village-based church planting movement among the Suay. Pray that God would grant them repentance that leads to life as they are hearing the gospel for the first time. Pray that God gives Manachai boldness and that God stretches forth His hand to heal and do signs and wonders among the Suay people.

Another thrilling event this past month is an addition to our team, Ying. In April 2018, we received an email from a Mennonite Brethren missionary couple who were thrilled to hear that we were moving to Uthumphon Phisai. They once planned to start a work here and knew two believers who lived in this town. They attached a photo. Then, two months later while on our exploratory trip, Karen stopped into a shop to get her hair done. I headed towards the coffee shop, three doors down, to wait for Karen. On the way, a woman stepped out of a neighboring shop shouting to me, "Hey, are you a Christian?" I told her I was, and she was very excited. When I learned her name, the email came to my remembrance. I opened my cell phone, and there was her photo. I then discovered that she was planning to retire from her hospital job soon and was very interested in village evangelism. A few weeks ago, we got reconnected and now she is also going out with us. Ying doesn't speak Suay, but her hospital job had previously connected her to some of the Suay villagers. Please pray that God also grants her boldness in sharing the gospel.

As many of you know, Karen fell on New Year's Day while exercising with our landlady. She tripped over a 3-inch rubber hose which crossed the jogging track. She broke her arm and wrist. She is now home recuperating with a large cast and a metal plate in her wrist. Please pray for her healing. Thank you for allowing us to be your hands and feet extended to the unreached people of Northeast Thailand. Thank you for your prayers and support. May God Bless you all abundantly.

In His Service,

Andre & Karen Provost

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TO GO DIRECTLY TO OUR
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