

Andre & Karen Provost

Transforming Lives by Multiplying
Clusters of Communities of Believers
across Northeast 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

OCTOBER 2021

Dear Friends,

I will never forget a life changing event which happened in 1993 while we were planting our first church. Pastor Somyot and I set up a Sunday afternoon preaching point in our carport. Gospel tracks distributed in the housing developments surrounding our home brought in believers. Things went fine until the day we announced that we would switch to morning services. The pastors of the churches from the adjacent district where these believers attended in the mornings were not supportive. I remember vividly the concluding remark of Pastor Somyot as we walked out of the meeting with one of those pastors. “We must find our own sheep!”

I returned home discouraged and asked God to show me how to proceed. On that very day, our neighbor, a Norwegian missionary, called to me from across the wall between our houses. “I just got home from attending a Youth with a Mission seminar in Pattaya. I was thinking about you and want you to have these.” In her hands were a pack of cassette tapes of the seminar and a thin magazine size book “Church Planting Through Obedience Oriented Education” by George Patterson.

As I flipped through the pages, I smiled at the listing of pitfalls: Avoid Preaching Points, Avoid Premature Public Worship, on and on. Each one I had fallen into. I listened to the cassettes over and over again. Patterson’s method of training was so practical. With this method, he started a movement in Honduras which resulted in a cluster of 100 churches. “Could this be duplicated in Thailand? Is this what God was calling me to do?”

The next Sunday, I closed our “preaching point.” The believers were welcomed to join me on this new journey going from house to house looking for “people of peace.” They began going out with me but soon lost enthusiasm. During this time, using ideas from Patterson, I developed the Life Enrichment Project which led us in planting our first house church. In 1994, furlough came. I passed the work onto a missionary from another agency. I realized then, that starting a work like this in Thailand would require teamwork. Fortunately, I had just received an invitation from an Eastern Mennonite family to join them in starting a new work in Northeast Thailand.

So, from 1995 to 2002, evangelizing with our Life Enrichment Course and training leaders using

Patterson’s Train and Multiply Curriculum, we raised up a cluster of nine house churches. The churches were then placed into the hands of the nationals. Since then, the Life Enrichment Churches have expanded to 20 churches and spread over an area of 2,600 sq miles covering 4% of Northeast Thailand. This work has also become an example to other missionaries and mission agencies.

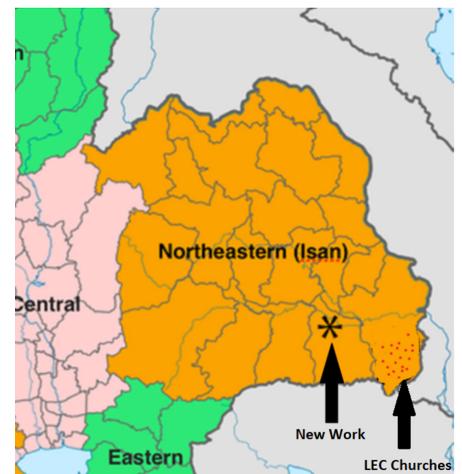
Now, our vision is to see this movement reproduced in other provinces where Isan villagers are still without a witness. We estimate that it would take 24 teams to finish the task. These past few months, we have had the privilege of sharing our vision with potential missionaries, missionaries, mission agency strategists, mission agency recruiters, mission agency leaders and some of our supporting churches. Please pray with us for God to provide these laborers. Pray also that God will provide the right teammates who would work directly with us in training and coaching these teams.

We have set our departure date to return to Thailand just after the holidays on January 2nd.

Thank you for walking with us. Thank you for your prayers and support.

In His Service,

Andre & Karen Provost



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