

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**

JUNE 2023

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago, in the unchurched Subdistrict of Phrai Pattana, we discovered a couple who were recently baptized by a relative who works in another part of Thailand. They were enthusiastic about having a church in their home but wanted permission from the village leader first. I suggested that we pray together for thirty minutes before meeting the leader. As my intercession intensified, I heard a voice. “Who do you think you are? You’re not going to start a church in this sub district!” After rebuking the voice, I discerned that the ruling principality over this subdistrict is wanting to stop us. If we succeed, this will be the third subdistrict where Paun, my trainee, planted a house church this year. His vision is to start churches in all seven subdistricts of the Phusing District by the end of the year. The village leader granted permission. This Sunday, Paun will lead their first worship service in the couple’s house.



The next day, after a lengthy time of prayer, Paun spoke to me. “I feel that the Holy Spirit wants us to share the gospel in the Phrai Pattana Temple area.” This temple, located in that same subdistrict, houses the embalmed body of a venerated monk, Luang Pu Suang. After dying in 2015, his status increased to “The angel who walked on this earth.” His devotees are so many that three electric trams are needed to transport them between the parking lot and the temple. In the center of the temple yard, a small Cambodian style building houses the glass casket displaying Luang Pu Suang’s corpse. Enthusiasts, after offering incense, rise and walk in a circular path that leads them under the monk’s casket for three rounds. They believe that worshipping him in this manner will grant them their desired miracle. Testimonies abound of devotees winning the lottery after completion of the ritual. Luang Pu Suang loved watching cock fights. Therefore crafted rooster statues of various sizes are sold by venders lining the highway to the monastery. Devotees buy them and place them around the building that houses his corpse. Also, small amulets with his picture are bought and worn around the neck of his followers.

As I observed the ritual and the fervor of the devotees, I asked myself, “Is this the power source of the ruling principality of whose voice I heard?” I wondered if a display of God’s power could shake the influence of this ruling principality. I thought of Paul’s experience in Ephesus. God working miracles through Paul caused so many to quit idolatry that the craftsmen and idol venders started to lose business. I imagined God working miracles through us. The men who craft the rooster statues and the amulets along with the venders would turn against us. Instead of the Ephesian crowd shouting “Great is the Goddess Diana,” we would be hearing Thai people shouting at us “Great is Laung Pu Suang, the angel who walked the earth” Instead of the city clerk calming the uproar by declaring, “Men of Ephesus, doesn’t everyone know that the city of Ephesus is guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven?” The district leader would be declaring “Men of Phusing, doesn’t everyone in Thailand know that your district is the guardian of the temple which holds the corpse of Luang Pu Siang, the angel who walked the earth?”



Each day before engaging new territory, Paun and I spend lengthy times praying in the Holy Spirit. We remind God of the circumstances around us. Like the first century believers, we implore Him to “enable us to speak His word with great boldness and to stretch out His hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonder through the name of His holy servant Jesus.” We are experiencing the filling of His Holy Spirit and boldness but have not yet witnessed the extraordinary demonstrations of God’s power like the early apostles did. Please join us in collective intercession for these things to happen so that idolatry can be eradicated and God can be glorified and worshipped among the people of Northeast Thailand. We cherish your support and prayers,

Serving Him in Thailand, **Andre & Karen Provost**

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MEMBER PAGE ONLINE!



Andre’s email: gaewfarang@gmail.com
Karen’s email: karenjprovost@gmail.com
Andre’s phone: 360-562-8050
Karen’s phone: 360-540-5699

Skype name: gaewfarang
Website: <http://globeintl.org/members/provost-andre-karen/>
Field address: PO Box 3
Uthumphon Phisai District
Sisaket 33120 Thailand



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INTERNATIONAL
www.globeintl.org
P.O. Box 3040
Pensacola, FL 32516