## Andre & Karen Provost

Clusters of Communities of Believers

across Northeast Thailand ansforming Lives by Multiplying

"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

BANGA CAN

**JANUARY 2024** 

## Dear Friends,

WARK

Loaded into our SUV, we embarked on a ninety-minute journey to Kantharalak. One of our believers had received a text from a believing relative that another family, also related, wanted to get baptized. During the last rice harvest, while those two families spent much time together, the new family had an opportunity to hear of Christ. Our journey was to find out the sincerity of their faith and their readiness.

As we ventured forth, questions swirled in my mind: "Do they truly understand the commitment to Christ? Or is this just another instance of a superficial conversion, a mere product of a persuasive pitch?" In Thailand, the tendency to skip the profound call for repentance in favor of a simple prayer concerned me deeply. The need for genuine transformation weighed heavily on my thoughts.

Upon arrival, we were met with a surprise—Pui, one of the women, shared a compelling testimony of healing, a tangible touch from the Lord. This powerful

experience was the catalyst behind their collective desire for baptism. "What must we do to be baptized?" Pui asked eagerly.

Team sharing with Pui

Thus, we began with the topic of repentance and behaviors hindering participation in God's Kingdom from the teachings of Paul. Given the syncretic nature of Thai culture, we delved into their association with idolatry. Pui's response was resolute: "Since my healing, I have removed all idols." The father echoed this commitment, affirming that their family had severed ties with idol worship. The conversation shifted to the topic of fornication. Addressing Pui and her mate directly, we questioned the formalization of their union. In modern Thai

> culture, cohabitation without marriage is common, but in God's kingdom, marriage is honored. They pledged to rectify this by agreeing to sleep separately until officially married.

> Advancing, we unfolded the biblical significance of baptism—union with Christ in His death, resurrection to a new life, and freedom from the slavery of sin. Pui, Wat (her companion), her mother, and her father all absorbed these teachings eagerly.

> Their readiness was evident. However, the idea of being immersed in the ponds surrounding their property, with steep banks and a nine-foot depth, was met with apprehension. A pragmatic compromise emerged—the four would be baptized by having buckets of water from the ponds poured over them.

> Given the considerable distance, a decision was made to empower them to conduct their own church services. Chai (one of our team members) equipped Pui and Wat with 15 weeks of material. He then instructed Wat on leading communion. In one day, we witnessed the birth of a church—a testament to the power of God's transformative work in the hearts of those earnestly seeking Him.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your prayers and support, which have made it possible to bring the gospel to those who would have never had the chance to hear. May the Lord bless and prosper you abundantly.

Your hands and feet extended to Thailand,

**Andre & Karen Provost** 



Wat's Baptism

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