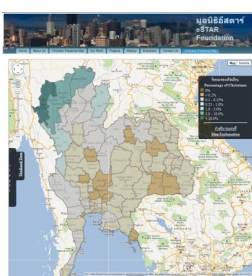




Comments from those CrossTies Asia serves

As we begin our sixth year in Thailand, we wanted to let you know how your investment in CrossTies Asia is valued by those we serve. Here are comments and results from various projects.

2011 Thai Church Census Database and Mapping project



<http://e-star.ws>

Every two years, for the past six years, we have done a complete census of the Thai church. To track its growth for the benefit of the Body of Christ in Thailand.

This year we created an online map from the data, using Google Maps technology. We make this information available on the internet so Thai Christians and ministries working in this country can make effective and accurate plans.

Here are some of the comments we have received:

"I commend you with the highest marks--this is a fantastic service. I'd think Christian leaders at least throughout the region will be jealous of this, and will want your services!"

Steve Spaulding / OC International - Colorado Springs, CO

"Incredible stuff, man. Thanks for your important work."

David R. King / Lead Pastor Evangelical Church Bangkok

"Appreciate your hard work. Gives us a much clearer and tangible picture of the work here."

Nathaniel Heng / Missionary in Northern Thailand

"The delivery of this key information for Thai leadership and int'l workers is well done."

Warren Lawrence / OC International - Penang Malaysia

"Thanks for the excellent updates."

Timothy Jeng / Sr. Pastor Mahapann Church Bangkok

"Thanks for all the work and heart put into gathering this information."

Mark Caldwell / Missionary in NE Thailand

"I can't tell you how much I have valued this map. It opened my eyes."

Rosalind Patricia Thomas / Missionary in Southern Thailand

Chiangmai Theological Seminary Library

Over the past year Mary Kay has been organizing and updating the library at Chiangmai Theological Seminary. In April of 2011 she installed an automated library system that is available on the internet. She has made the library more efficient and, as a result, the students are using it more. You can browse the books in this library at

<http://ctsthailand.org>.

Here is what the director and founder of the seminary have to say about Mary Kay's work.

"Mary Kay is an answer to prayer for the CTS library. Her hard work and creativity has given CTS an efficient new library for students and staff to enjoy!"

Dr. Wannapa Reyong / Director—Chiangmai Theological Seminary

"Mary Kay has been an answer to prayer for the Chiangmai Theological Seminary. Her excellent leadership and efficient performance has been the greatest of help in the life of the library."

Dr. Henry Breidenthal / Founder—Chiangmai Theological Seminary

Digital Library of Thai Christian Resources on a USB flash drive.

A project we completed over three years ago was to place 5,000 Christian resources in a digital library on the internet.

(<http://www.thaicrc.com>) We also provided a "portable" version of the library on a flash drive for those who don't have an internet connection.



USB flash drive

This month we randomly surveyed 60 pastors who purchased a USB flash drive to ask how useful it is to them. To our amazement we found that after over three years 38% of them are being used frequently, 18% are used occasionally. **Over 50% of the pastors who obtained a "portable" library still find them useful!** The remainder either lost it, gave it to someone else or had a technical issue (which we are working on resolving for them.)

As a result, we are encouraged to enhance the library and make more available, so even more pastors can receive benefit from these resources.

As we serve the Body of Christ in Thailand. We thank you for supporting CrossTies Asia. It is only because of your prayers and support that we are able to do this work.

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Karen Tribal Mountain Wedding

After a thousand switch back turns taking us 2 hours to go the final 18 miles we arrived in a small village in Northwest Chiangmai. Why did we make this drive – to attend the wedding of Nur, our helper.

Last month she informed us she was getting married so Dwight and I decided to take the trek. We wanted to arrive before dark because her village has no electricity or running water.

Our accommodations were sparse – a wooden house with a mat and two blankets. Luckily we brought another blanket and our own pillows. There was no other furniture in the house but it was clean. That evening we ate with the family and then had a worship time in their home (of course everyone was sitting on the floor). The elders of the village and the two families then proceeded to plan the wedding. Family members from both sides participated and Dwight was asked to pray for the couple during the ceremony. The wedding ceremony was scheduled for 7:30 AM the next day. But, other preparations had to be done as well – the preparing of the food. The family literally killed the fatted pigs (4 of them) and proceeded to prepare them for the feast the next day.

Early the next morning we walked down the hill from our lodgings to attend the wedding. The bride's party walked from her house to the sala for the ceremony. Nur is from a Karen village so the whole ceremony was in the Karen language and not in Thai. The bride does not wear a wedding dress

but actually wears the tribal dress for a married women. As a single woman she had a white dress but now she wore the black top and skirt. She also wore a veil. After the service we took a few pictures and greeted the bride and groom (No and Nur). Then, it was time for the breakfast feast. Rice served in banana leaves with several different dishes made from fresh pork. The groom's family left shortly after because they had a full day's drive to return to their village (another thousand hairpin turns).

It was almost a non-event for the bride and groom as they went right back to their regular duties after the wedding – serving others and taking care of their family. We have been privileged to have Nur work for us now for three years. She not only helps us at our house but also at the office. She has matured in the Lord over these last couple of years and we pray that as she starts her own family that they will continue to serve God. Please pray for her family in the mountains, they have a difficult life. No electricity and no cell service. Her brother has been sick with typhoid and is just starting to feel a little better after four weeks. They live off the land and really don't have any other means of earning income. The adult children usually leave the village to work and support the others.



Important

This is the first time in six years CrossTies Asia is projecting a short fall in the ministry budget. The ministry budget is how we pay our staff and keep the office open so we can provide Christian resources to the church in Thailand and in other countries. We are trusting the Lord for \$28,000.

Would you consider providing a one time gift or becoming a regular ministry partner with us?

Please mail your gift to CrossTies Asia, P.O. Box 12143, Birmingham, AL 35202. You can also give by credit card by calling Bob at 205-327-8317 and provide him with your credit card information.

CrossTies Asia is a member of the Crosswinds Foundation a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization
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