

# mission FRIENDS

Fall 1999

Dear Mission Friend:

*Sawasdee!* This issue of *Mission Friends* introduces your students to the people and nation of Thailand. Check your packet for the following items:

**1. Large map of Thailand**

The map is on the reverse side of this letter.

**2. Response card**

Return this card for new *Mission Friends* subscriptions or if you have comments about *Mission Friends*.

**3. Student pages**

These pages are written at a 4th-5th grade reading level, but all or part of them may be enjoyed by younger and older students as well.

**4. Primary page**

This page is written especially for children in grades 1-3. Again, younger or older students may enjoy some or all of the activities on this page.

**5. Teacher pages**

These pages give additional information and teaching suggestions for both the student and primary pages.

**6. Parent page**

Please photocopy this page for each of your students and send it home with them, along with the *Mission Friends* student and primary pages.

These materials are intended to be photocopied. **Please make as many photocopies as you need.** If you prefer, you may order additional copies of *Mission Friends* from CPH Publishing for \$1 each.

**Coming up!** These topics are on the schedule for future issues of *Mission Friends*: Guinea (winter 1999-2000). **Back issues** of *Mission Friends* are available for \$1 each. Order by country or topic from Concordia Publishing House, 1-800-325-3040. Previous topics include: Philippines, Ghana (updated 1998!), Papua New Guinea, Blind/Deaf/Disabled, Korea, Russia, Caribbean, India/Sri Lanka, Japan, Native Americans, Nigeria, Olympics (Hispanics, Muslims, Jews and Chinese in North America), Chinese People in Asia (China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan), Hungary, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Panama, Kazakstan, Guatemala, Togo, Refugees and Venezuela (updated 1999!).

Until next time . . .

Your partners in God's mission,



Karin Semler  
Editor, *Mission Friends*



Rev. B. Steve Hughey, Director  
Mission Partnership and Involvement



MYANMAR

VIETNAM

CHINA

LAOS

CHIANG MAI

THAILAND

BANGKOK

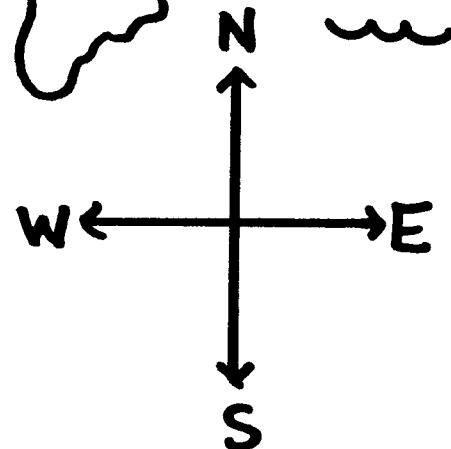
CAMBODIA

Andaman  
Sea

Gulf  
of  
Thailand

PHUKET

MALAYSIA



Thailand

teacher

mission



# FRIENDS

VOL. 8, NO. 1

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

FALL 1999

## Let's Go to Thailand!

### In This Issue

Palmer Parrot is back to take your students to Thailand. There's lots of information and lots to do inside *Mission Friends*. Here they will meet real missionaries and real Thai people. And they can get involved in God's mission in ways that will make a difference.

At this writing, the following LCMS career missionaries are serving in Thailand:

- Rev. Dr. Jeffery and Cheryl Ehlers (Megan, 1987; Joshua, 1989; Emily, 1992)
- Mr. Dale and Mary Hedstrom (Joshua, 1993; Laura, 1995; Coretta, 1998)
- Mr. Timothy and Michelle Miller (Ellyn, 1993; Joel, 1994; Sarah, 1997)
- Deaconess Christie Nelson
- Rev. Mark and Beth Schultz (Stephen, 1983; Brenda, 1985; Andrea, 1987)

Several long-term volunteers are also serving in Thailand. For a list of current LCMS missionary personnel in Thailand, contact LCMS World Mission at 1-800-433-3954, Ext. 1318.

If possible, use the missionaries' prayer card, which has a picture of the missionaries and their family on it. It also contains personal information about the family. Prayer cards can be ordered in quantity from CPH Publishing (Order desk: 1-800-325-3040). Allow students to take prayer cards home and encourage them to pray often for the missionaries.

### LCMS Mission in Thailand

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod began work in Thailand in 1986. The "Concordia Gospel Ministry"

(CGM) supports the efforts of the Into Light Lutheran Church.

The Concordia Gospel Ministry Center operates a "Teaching English as a Second Language Center" with 1,100 students attending per year. Students receive Bible instruction as a part of each English class lesson. Currently, the Concordia Gospel Ministry in Thailand is focusing on leadership training in connection with the local Thai Lutheran congregation. This leadership training includes Bible study groups, one-on-one appointments, camps, seminars, special evangelistic events and Bible classes. In selected years around 10 short-term volunteers serve with the English-as-a-Second-Language program at a local university as part of the "LIGHTS in Bangkok" program.

An urban ministry strategy is being initiated in Bangkok, as well as social service programs like childcare centers and work among teenage girls who are at risk of abuse. The urban ministry uses the center to teach English to build relationships and evangelize Thai students and professionals.

A joint effort by the CGM and Lutheran Hour Ministries involves about 60 participants in prison in a small-group Bible study. "The Journey Into Light" (Thailand Lutheran Hour Ministries) is broadcast over nine stations and receives about 500 responses per month. Currently, about 200 people per month are enrolled in Bible correspondence courses.

Under the Concordia Welfare and Educational Foundation—Thailand, the "House of Living Water" operates a program for girls who have come out of abusive situations and provides educational, spiritual and vocational training for its residents. Concordia Day Care Center's program provides care for the children of slum workers. This includes health care, educational opportunities, spiritual

guidance and a safe environment for children who might be left unattended while both parents work.

To receive a monthly e-mail prayer letter with mission stories and updates from Thailand, send your e-mail address to [oratai@mozart.inet.co.th](mailto:oratai@mozart.inet.co.th).

## More Class Activities

The currency of Thailand is called the *baht*. There are 100 *satang* in 1 *baht*. Chart the *baht* to U.S. dollar exchange rate over a week. Talk about what may cause changes in the exchange rate.

Study more about Buddhism. The Thai people follow the practices of Theravada Buddhism, which follows the teachings of Buddha more closely than other groups do. Theravada Buddhists believe that those who are not monks will have a more difficult time in their search for enlightenment. What other countries follow Theravada Buddhism? Are there Buddhists in your community?

Bangkok is one of the only major cities in the world that has no public transportation system. A popular way to get around the city is in a *tuk tuk*—a three-wheeled type of motorized taxi. Ask students what it would be like to live in a city with more than 8 million people and no public transportation system.

The following saying is a Thai saying, “When you are in the town where people wink, you must also wink.” Ask students if they understand the meaning. See if they can come up with an equivalent idiom in English. (“When in Rome, do as the Romans do.”)

Try playing *takraw* in physical education class. Visit a *takraw* website, such as [www.usatakraw.com](http://www.usatakraw.com) to learn the rules. This game is becoming popular outside of Southeast Asia as well.

More than 500 silkworm cocoons are needed to weave one silk necktie. Learn more about silk worms and the process of silk weaving.

Visit the Bangkok Post’s website [www.bangkokpost.net](http://www.bangkokpost.net) and go to the Student Weekly Newspaper. Articles are provided on current Thai topics. The articles include vocabulary words and definitions as well as content-based questions.

Study more about elephants. Have the students do reports on topics including: diet, life cycle, differences between Asian elephants and African elephants, where elephants live, how people use elephants with work, etc.

Thais use a different system to mark time. While we use A.D., Thais use B.E.—Buddhist Era—which marks the year Buddha reached nirvana. To calculate B.E., simply add 543 years to the A.D. year. Although Thais are aware of the anno domini dates, B.E. dates are most widely used. Is there significance in how we mark time?

What impact can this have on a culture?

Thais consider it bad luck to get a haircut on a Wednesday. Nearly all barbers and hairdressers close their shops on Wednesday. What are some common North American superstitions? What effect can these have on our relationships with God and others?

Over 42 different kinds of rice are grown in Thailand. Thailand is one of the world’s largest rice exporters, selling around 4 million tons of rice each year to nearly 80 countries. Study more about rice—one of the staple foods of the world. How do people grow and harvest rice? Sample different varieties of cooked rice.

Use different kinds of rice for an art project. Select different grain lengths and colors when making the project.

Thais consider a person’s head to be sacred. It is offensive to touch another person’s head, even the head of another person’s child. Subordinate people try to keep their heads below the level of their superior’s head. How would this tradition challenge practices of Christianity in the west? How could a Thai pastor give a blessing and avoid offending the person receiving the blessing?

Japan occupied Thailand during World War II. It is said that 112,000 Asian laborers and allied POWs lost their lives in building the Burma-Siam railroad—which included the famous “bridge over the River Kwai.” Study more about World War II and how Thailand was involved and affected.

The idiom “white elephant”—a useless object—comes out of Thai tradition. White elephants were considered to be most valuable. These animals belonged to the king and could not be used for work, thus having to be cared for at a huge expense. Ask students to give examples of North American “white elephants.”

## The Capital City

The translation of Bangkok’s full name is: “city of angels, great city of immortals, magnificent jeweled city of the god Indra, seat of the King of Ayutthaya, city of the gleaming temples, city of the king’s most excellent palace and dominions, home of Vishnu and all the gods.”

References to the gods Indra and Vishnu are evidence of Hindu elements that blended into the religious beliefs of Thailand.

## More ideas for involvement

Following are two ideas to use if your class would like to send a gift for the mission work in Thailand.

- Small Christian items, like those from a Christian

bookstore, can be distributed to children and teens that come to the CGM center for Bible studies. Please send a minimum of 20 similar objects.

- Christian or Bible story books in very simple English can be used in the CGM library and in children's English classes.

Please send any items or correspondence to the following address:

205/20 Soi Chaiyakit 1  
Ngam Wong Wan Road  
Bangkok 10210  
Thailand

## Another Mission Story

The House of Living Water (HLW) is a program of education and rehabilitation designed to meet the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of girls between the ages of 12 and 20 who have been rescued out of tragic situations involving sexual, emotional and/or physical abuse in Thailand. Most of those situations include rape, incest, and/or child prostitution. The following story is about a former resident of HLW.

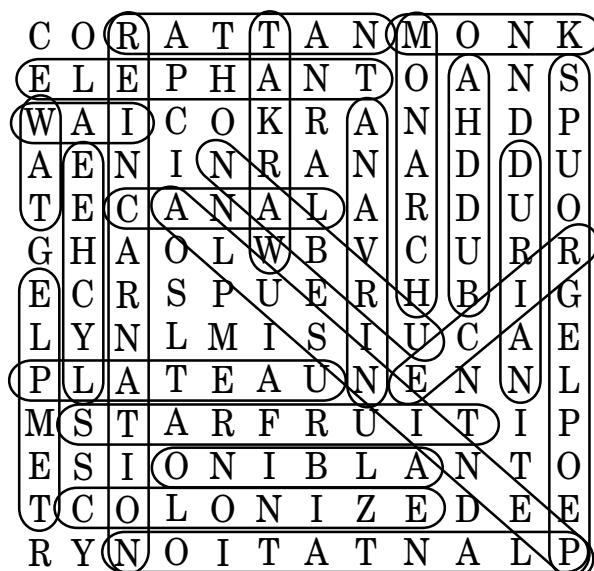
Rin was the youngest child of a poor peasant family living in the northern part of Thailand. She was devastated at the age of 12 when her parents sold her into child prostitution. Rin lived in forced prostitution for a little over a year. She was rescued and placed into the House of Living Water where she found warmth and care in a way she had never known before. Jesus came into her life and brought the inner healing she longed for. Rin finished high school while living at HLW and has continued in her pursuit to become a full-time professional church worker by attending a local Bible college. Rin now works part-time at HLW and openly shares the Gospel of Jesus Christ with her family and friends. Praise God for what He has done and continues to do in Rin's life!

## Vocabulary words

1. **Albino:** a white or light-colored animal born without normal skin coloring.
2. **Buddha:** a man called the "enlightened one" who began the religion called Buddhism.
3. **Canal:** a man-made waterway.
4. **Colonize:** to make a group of people in a different area become part of another country.
5. **Monarch:** someone who reigns over a kingdom; a king or queen.
6. **Monk:** a man living apart in a community of other men for religious service.

7. **Nirvana:** the "Buddhist heaven"; freedom from the cycle of rebirth.
8. **Peninsula:** a piece of land that extends out into a body of water.
9. **People groups:** groups of people who share a common language and culture.
10. **Plantation:** a large farm that grows many plants or trees.
11. **Plateau:** an area of land that is higher than the land around it and flat on top.
12. **Rattan:** stems from a palm plant woven together.
13. **Reincarnation:** the Buddhist belief that a soul can be reborn into a new body many times.
14. **Urban:** having to do with a city.
15. **Wai:** a Thai greeting.
16. **Wat:** a kind of Buddhist temple found in Thailand.

## Word Search Key



Our missionaries work at the **Concordia Gospel Ministry** center in Bangkok.

## Resources

### Videos

Library Video Company has more than 8,000 video and CD-ROM titles covering world geography, cultures, world religions, holidays, history, science, art and more. Order their catalog by calling 1-800-843-3620.

## Computer

CD-ROM: Cartopedia: The Ultimate World Reference Atlas, produced by Dorling Kindersley in 1995. This CD includes lots of basic information, charts, maps and photographs for 193 countries. Available from World Almanac Education (1-800-321-1147) or Dorling Kindersley (1-800-DKMM-575).

## Internet

On Thailand and related topics:

[www.bangkokpost.net](http://www.bangkokpost.net) Website of the Bangkok Post and Student Weekly Newspaper

[www.mahidol.ac.th/Thailand](http://www.mahidol.ac.th/Thailand) Mahidol University in Bangkok sponsors this site about Thailand

[www.tat.or.th/main.html](http://www.tat.or.th/main.html) Tourism Authority of Thailand's website

<http://thaistudents.com> Website of Sriwittayapaknam School and topics of interest to Thai students

[www.thaifocus.com/elephant](http://www.thaifocus.com/elephant) Website for an elephant nature park in northern Thailand

[www.usatakraw.com](http://www.usatakraw.com) Website of the USA Takraw Federation

## General:

[www.supersurf.com](http://www.supersurf.com) "World Surfari" takes cyberkids to a new country every month with sections about the people, the society, the history and fun things to do at each stop. It also has a monitored message center for kids around the world to talk to each other about where they live, their schools, games, sports or other topics.

## Books:

### For students:

- Brittan, Dolly. *The People of Thailand (Celebrating the Peoples and Civilizations of Southeast Asia)*. New York: PowerKids Press, 1997.
- Glass, Tom. *Even Little Is Something, Stories of Nong*. Linnet Books: North Haven, 1997.
- Goodman, Jim. *Thailand (Cultures of the World)*. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 1991.
- Ho, Mingfong. *HUSH! A Thai Lullaby*. New York: Orchard Books, 1996.
- McNair, Sylvia. *Thailand (Enchantment of the World Second Series)*. New York: Children's Press, 1998.

### For teachers:

- Kongsiri, Visnu & Tonkin, Derek. *The Simple Guide to Customs and Etiquette in Thailand*. Kent, England: Global Books, Ltd.
- LePoer, Barbara. *Thailand: A Country Study (Area Handbook Series)*. Washington D.C.: Library of Congress, 1989.

## Especially for primary teachers

### Jesus Loves Me

You can use the Thai words for "Jesus loves me" in another classroom activity. Use a copy machine to enlarge the words so that each letter is about the size of an 8 1/2-by-11 sheet of paper. Then give them to the students to decorate with gold, sequins, colored paper, etc., as described in the "Make a cross" activity, or simply to color. Afterward you can cut out the letters, assemble them in order and place them on a bulletin board.

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## Let's Go to Thailand!

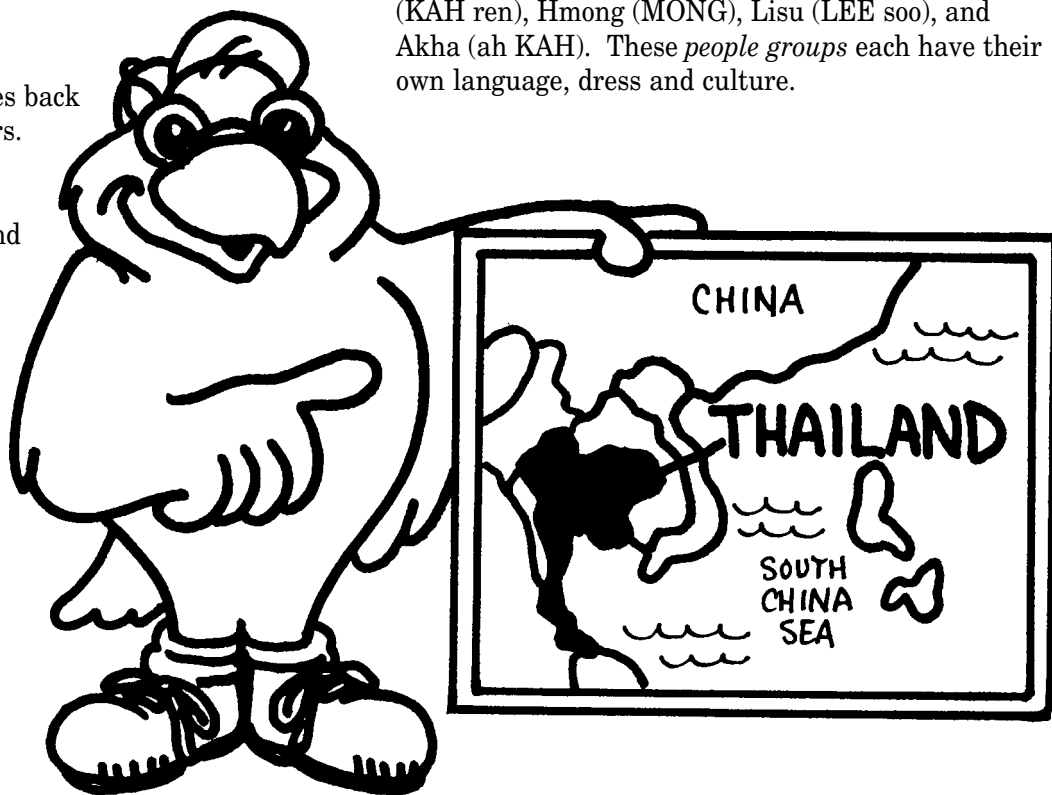
Hey, mission friends, pack your bags! We are going to a country called "Thailand" (TIE land) on the continent of Asia. The name "Thailand" means, "land of the free." Unlike many of its neighboring countries, a Western country never ruled Thailand; it was never *colonized*. For hundreds of years this country was called "Siam" (si YAM), until 1939, when it was officially renamed Thailand.

## History

Thailand's history dates back nearly four thousand years. As a nation, Thailand has been ruled by kings for nearly 700 years. Thailand became a democracy in 1932. King Rama IX is the world's longest reigning *monarch*—he has been king more than 50 years—and is very popular among the Thai people. Even though he has limited power compared with earlier kings, he is a symbol of national unity for the Thai people.

## People

More than 60 million people live in Thailand. Only one in five people live in cities, like Bangkok. Thai (TIE) people make up around 80 percent of the population. Chinese people, which equal 14 percent of the population, are the largest minority in Thailand. The mountain valleys of northern Thailand are home to many different people groups, like the Karen (KAH ren), Hmong (MONG), Lisu (LEE soo), and Akha (ah KAH). These *people groups* each have their own language, dress and culture.

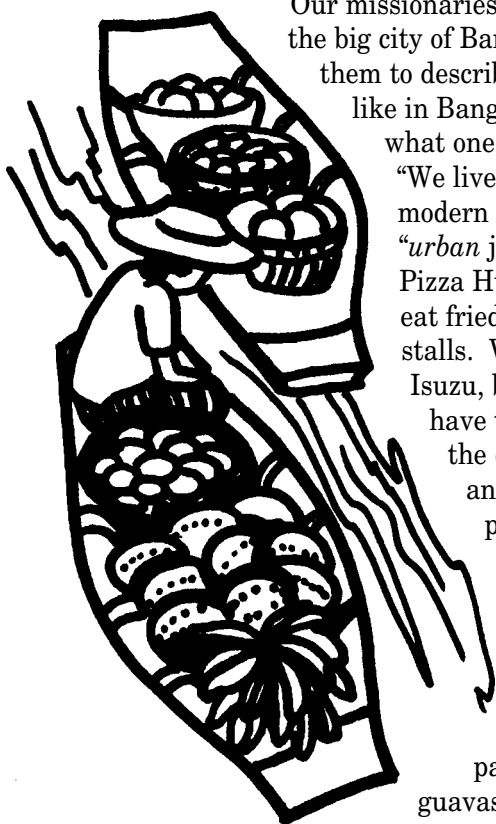


## The Capital City

The capital city, Bangkok (BAN kahk) is the largest city in Thailand. More than 8 million people live there. Bangkok became the capital city in 1782. “Krung Thep” (KROONG tep) is the Thai name for Bangkok. It means “city of angels.”

Krung Thep is really a shortened form of the official name, which the *Guinness Book of World Records* lists as the longest place name in the world. The full name with 152 Thai letters is Krungthep Mahanakhon Bovorn Ratanakosin Mahintharayutthaya Mahadilokpop Noparatratchathani Burirom Udomratchanivetmahasathan Amornpiman Avatarsathit Sakkathattiyavisnukarmprasit!

The Chao Phraya (JOW pry yah) River and many canals flow through Bangkok. Some people live along the canals and river in houses on stilts. While many people drive, some people use boats to travel around Bangkok. There are also floating markets where people sell fruits, vegetables, handicrafts and other items from boats. Bangkok has been called the “Venice of the East” because the canals are similar to those in Venice, Italy.



Our missionaries work and live in the big city of Bangkok. We asked them to describe what life is like in Bangkok, and this is what one missionary said: “We live in a pretty modern house in the “urban jungle.” We go to Pizza Hut, but we also eat fried rice at the street stalls. We drive an Isuzu, but we sometimes have to pull over to let the elephants, goats and water buffaloes pass by on a busy four-lane street. We love to eat apples and bananas, but we also eat mangos, papayas, and guavas.” What an interesting city!

## Land and Climate

The kingdom of Thailand is located in Southeast Asia. It’s about the same size as France. The countries of Myanmar (ME an mahr), Laos (LAH os), Cambodia (cam BOH dee ah) and Malaysia (mah LAY zhah) share borders with Thailand. It has coastlines along the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea.

Thailand has four different areas:

- Northern Thailand is covered with mountains and forests. Many minority *people groups* live here.
- Northeastern Thailand has high *plateaus*. This area is famous for silk weaving.
- Central Thailand’s plains grow most of its rice *crop*.
- The southern *peninsula* of Thailand is hilly and covered with rain forests. There are many coconut *plantations* in this area.

The climate of Thailand is subtropical. Since Thailand lies near the equator, the Thai people have lots of hours of sunshine all year long, as well as high humidity. There are three seasons in Thailand: **hot** from March to June, **rainy** from July to October, and **cool** from November to February.

## What’s a wai?

The most common Thai custom is a polite bow called a *wai* [WHY]. Thai people *wai* to each other as greetings instead of shaking hands, to show respect, or to say thank you. When Thai people meet, the younger person will *wai* first and then the older person will *wai* back. Each year Thai schools have a ceremony called “Wai Kru” where students honor their teachers.

## How to wai:

- Press both hands together with your fingers pointing upward.
- Raise your hands until they are about eye level, keeping your elbows down close to your sides.
- Bow your head slightly toward your hands.





## Map Activities

1. Draw a cross over the capital city of Bangkok where our missionaries work.
2. Circle the names of two other cities in Thailand: Chiang Mai and Phuket.
3. Color the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand blue.
4. Color the northern area of Thailand red.
5. Color northeastern Thailand purple.
6. Color the central area of Thailand yellow.
7. Color the southern peninsula green.
8. What do you think the shape of Thailand looks like?

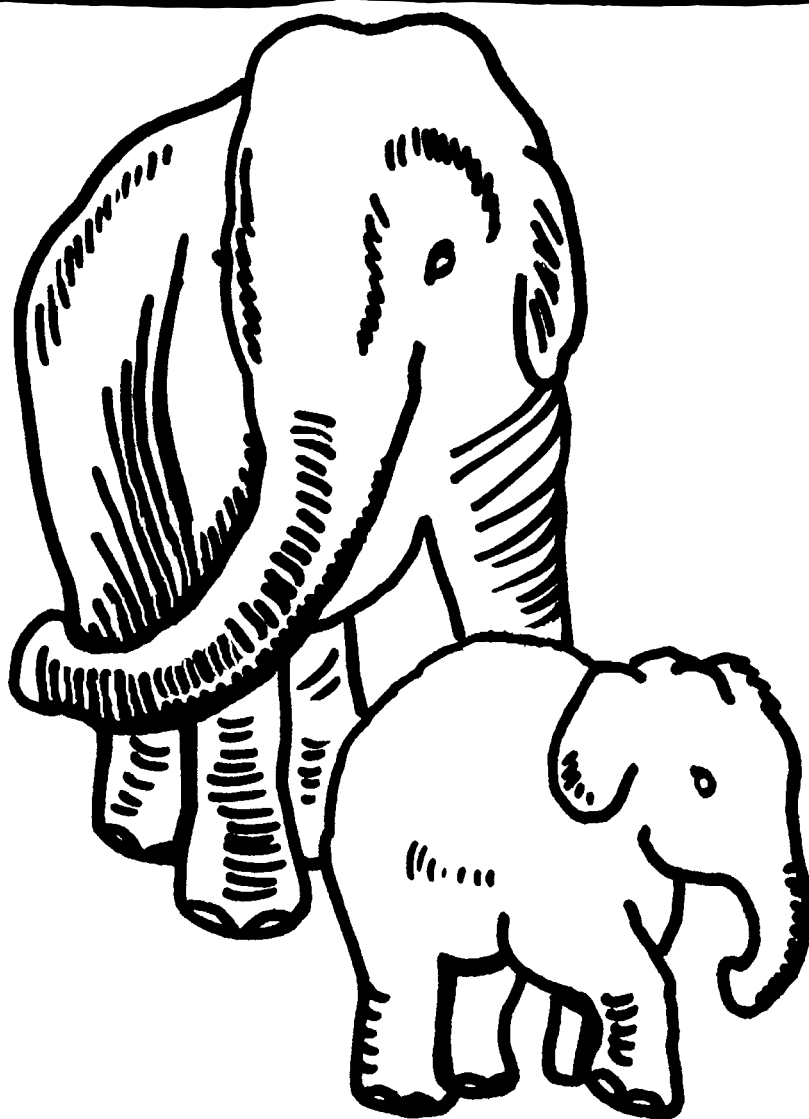
# Elephants in Thailand

The elephant is considered the national animal of Thailand. Elephants are symbols of royalty and have a higher value than other animals. Long ago Thai kings rode elephants into battle. The kings thought that the rare white-colored elephants were the best. These are called *albino* elephants.

Thai people also used elephants to do work such as moving heavy logs. Today there are around 5,000 elephants in Thailand. Hundreds of years ago there were many thousand more.

Did you know...

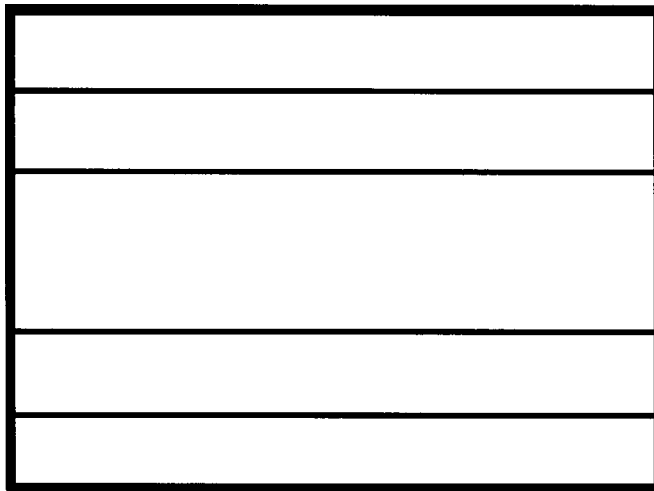
- that elephant skin is around 1 inch (2.5 cm) thick?
- that elephants can live to be 70 years old?
- that baby elephants are born 3 feet (0.9m) tall?
- that an elephant's trunk is made of around 100,000 muscles?
- that elephants only lie down to sleep when they are sick?



## Flag

The flag of Thailand has five stripes of red, white and blue. The wide blue center stripe stands for the *monarchy*. On each side of the blue stripe is a white stripe. The white color stands for Buddhism, the major religion of Thailand. The top and bottom stripes of the flag are red, which stands for the lifeblood of the Thai people.

This flag was made official in 1917. It is flown every day from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at all official buildings and schools. The Thai national anthem is usually played over loudspeakers when the flag is raised and lowered.



# Religion

Around 95 percent of the Thai people are Buddhist [BOO dist]. The religion Buddhism [BOO dism] began in India over two thousand years ago from the teachings of a man called the “enlightened one,” or Buddha [BOO dah].

The Buddha taught that there are Four Noble Truths:

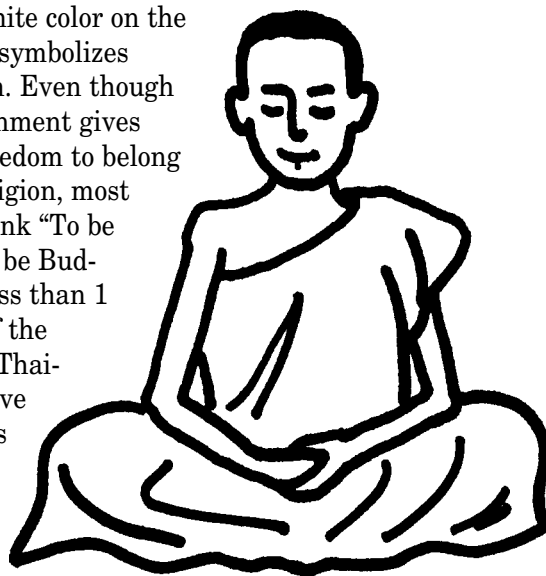
1. Life is suffering.
2. Suffering comes from desires.
3. Suffering can end.
4. There is a way people can stop suffering.

If people learned how to live correctly they can stop suffering. Buddhism teaches that people must do good actions to bring happiness. According to Buddhism, if a person dies before they stop suffering, the person will be *reincarnated*. This means that a person can be reborn as a different person or even as an animal in another life in this world; reincarnation can happen over and over again until a person stops suffering and then reaches *nirvana*—“the Buddhist heaven.” Reincarnation is

different from a Christian’s body being resurrected on the last day. The Bible teaches that Christians will live again with Jesus in heaven, but not as a different person in this world.

Nearly every town in Thailand has at least one Buddhist temple, called a *wat*. There are over 29,000 of them in the country. Many Thai boys live as Buddhist *monks* for several weeks or months at a local *wat*.

The white color on the Thai flag symbolizes Buddhism. Even though the government gives people freedom to belong to any religion, most people think “To be Thai is to be Buddhist.” Less than 1 percent of the people of Thailand believe that Jesus is their Savior.



## Language

The beautiful Thai alphabet was invented 800 years ago by King Ramkhamheng. It has 76 letters—44 consonants and 32 vowels! Thai is written from left to right with no capital letters or punctuation.

The Thai language has five tones. This means that a word can be pronounced in five different ways: high, low, rising, falling and even. The tone can change the meaning of the word.

### English Thai

|          |             |                |
|----------|-------------|----------------|
| Hello    | sawasdee    | (sah wahs DEE) |
| Good-bye | sawasdee    | (sah wahs DEE) |
| Please   | noy         | (NOY)          |
| Friend   | puen        | (POO en)       |
| Fun      | sanuk       | (SAH nook)     |
| Father   | paw         | (PAH)          |
| Mother   | mae         | (MEH)          |
| Jesus    | Prah Yeasoo | (PRAH YEA soo) |

**This is what John 3:16 looks like in the Thai language.**

“เพราะว่าพระเจ้าทรงรักโลก จนได้ประทาน  
พระบุตรองค์เดียวของพระองค์ เพื่อทุกคน  
ที่วางใจในพระบุตรนั้นจะไม่พินาศ แต่มี  
ชีวิตนิรันดร์”

ยอห์น 3 : 16

## A Mission Story

Aey [A] was a Buddhist and grew up in a Buddhist family. She heard a little about Jesus when she was a child but didn't know very much about Christianity. Our missionaries first met Aey when she was a university student in Bangkok. Some volunteers from the United States were helping our missionaries lead classes on her university campus and invited Aey to come to a weekend retreat.

Aey kept in contact with our missionaries after the retreat and learned more about Jesus over the next several months. She came to believe that Jesus was her Savior and was very happy about her new faith...but her family was not happy about it. In fact, her family told her that she would no longer be a part of their family if she was baptized!

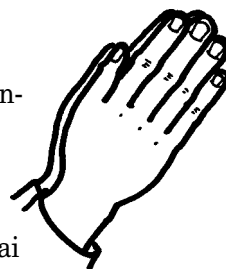
For many weeks Aey prayed. She talked with her family again about being baptized. Aey's parents had noticed how much joy and peace she had since she started believing in Jesus. Finally, they changed their minds and told Aey it was okay to be baptized and still stay a member of the family. It was a miracle!

Soon after Aey was baptized, another miracle happened. Aey's parents encouraged her to tell her brother about her best friend, Jesus. He also studied the Bible for many months and wants to be baptized!

Aey now works with our missionaries at the Concordia Gospel Ministry Center in Bangkok. She has many opportunities to tell people about Jesus.

## Let's Pray!

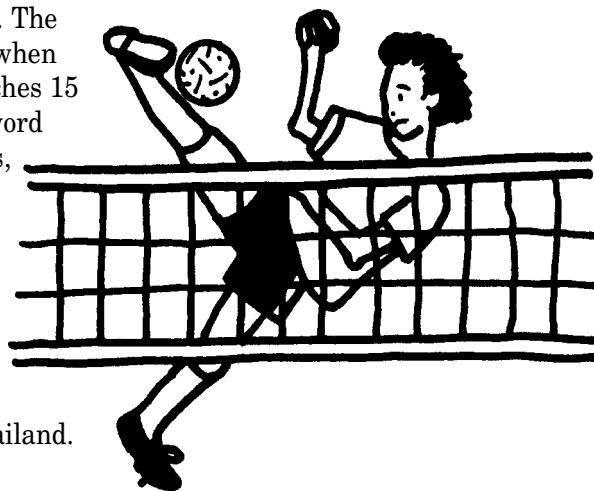
You can be a partner with our missionaries by praying for the people of Thailand. Ask your family and friends to pray with you. You can pray:



- For Aey, her brother and other Thai Christians. Ask God to give Aey and others many opportunities to witness to their Thai friends and families.
- For whole families to come to faith in Jesus. Ask God to open the hearts of Aey's parents that they also will believe that Jesus is their Savior.
- For our missionaries and their children. Pray that God will give them chances every day to tell people about Jesus' love. Ask God to give them good health and protection. Pray that they learn to speak the Thai language quickly and well.
- For the work of the Concordia Gospel Ministry center, House of Living Water, Thailand Lutheran Hour, Concordia Day Care Center and Into Light Lutheran Church in Bangkok. Pray that God will bring even more people to Bible studies.

## Takraw, a Popular Thai Sport

The oldest form of *takraw* [TAHK rah] was played over 500 years ago in Southeast Asia. *Takraw* is like playing volleyball without using your hands or arms. There are two teams of four players kick a ball over a net on a court about the size of badminton court. Traditionally, the ball was made of woven *rattan*, commonly found in Southeast Asia. Today the *takraw* ball is made of woven plastic. The game is over when one team reaches 15 points. The word *takraw* means, "woven ball" in Thai. The game is officially called "sepaktakraw" in countries outside of Thailand.



## Thai Food

Rice is one of the main foods eaten in Thailand. Almost all food is served with rice or rice noodles. Ingredients like garlic, chili and pepper make Thai food very spicy! If you were a Thai, you would eat holding a spoon in your right hand and a fork in your left hand. You would use chopsticks to eat noodles.

Thailand grows many kinds of tropical fruit throughout the year. Some of these fruits are well known to us, such as the pineapple, mango and banana. Others, like the lychee [LIE chee], starfruit, and durian [DUR ee ahn], are not usually eaten in North America. Sweet coconut milk is often used in desserts.



## Song

Try singing the song “Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia—Praise ye the Lord” in Thai with your friends.

Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia—sun sern Prah Jow.

Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia—sun sern Prah Jow.

sun sern Prah Jow—Alleluia.

sun sern Prah Jow—Alleluia.

sun sern Prah Jow—Alleluia.

sun sern Prah Jow!



## Let's Eat Thai Stir-Fried Vegetables!

### What you need:

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Snow peas                              | 1 1/2 ounce |
| Young kale                             | 1 1/2 ounce |
| Cabbage                                | 1 1/2 ounce |
| Broccoli                               | 1 1/2 ounce |
| Cauliflower                            | 1 1/2 ounce |
| Mushrooms                              | 1 1/2 ounce |
| Baby sweetcorn                         | 1 1/2 ounce |
| 1/4 cup of peanut or corn oil          |             |
| 3 tablespoons of finely chopped garlic |             |
| 1/2 cup of chicken stock               |             |
| 4 tablespoons of oyster sauce          |             |
| 1 tablespoon of light soy sauce        |             |
| 1/4 teaspoon of black soy sauce        |             |
| 1/2 teaspoon of white-pepper powder    |             |
| (Serve with cooked rice.)              |             |

### What you do:

Please have an adult help you prepare this recipe.

- Cut the vegetables into bite-sized pieces and mix together in a bowl.
- Put them into a pot of boiling water for a few seconds.
- Drain the vegetables and set them aside.
- Heat a wok and add the oil.
- When the oil is hot, add the garlic and stir well.
- Now add the vegetables and chicken stock at one time and stir fry for 3-4 minutes. (The vegetables should be a little crisp.)
- Add the oyster sauce and soy sauces and sprinkle with pepper.
- Mix everything well and cook for 1 minute.
- Serve with cooked rice.

# Word Search Puzzle

See if you can find some vocabulary words from this issue in the puzzle below. The words are hidden in all directions, down, up, left, right and diagonally. There will be 23 letters left over. Circle the letters and write them on the blanks below to answer the question.

## Look for these words:

albino

Buddha

canal

colonized

durian

elephant

lychee

monarch

monk

nirvana

peninsula

people groups

plantation

plateau

rattan

reincarnation

rice

starfruit

takraw

temple

urban

wai

wat

C O R A T T A N M O N K  
E L E P H A N T O A N S  
W A I C O K R A N H D P  
A E N I N R A N A D D U  
T E C A N A L A R D U O  
G H A O L W B V C U R R  
E C R S P U E R H B I G  
L Y N L M I S I U C A E  
P L A T E A U N E N N L  
M S T A R F R U I T I P  
E S I O N I B L A N T O  
T C O L O N I Z E D E E  
R Y N O I T A T N A L P

**Good-bye,  
Mission Friends!**



I hope you enjoyed your trip to Thailand. If you have more questions about Thailand, our missionaries or how you can become a missionary, please write to me.

Send regular mail to:



*Mission Friends*  
LCMS World Mission  
1333 S. Kirkwood Road  
St. Louis, MO 63122-7295

Or if you have e-mail, write to [IC\\_MISSION@lcms.org](mailto:IC_MISSION@lcms.org).

**The name of the center where our  
missionaries work in Bangkok:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# primary mission FRIENDS

## Let's Go to Thailand!

### Jesus Loves Me

Sing the first verse of "Jesus Loves Me." Instead of singing the chorus in English, try singing it in Thai!

**Prah Yesu rak chun**  
**[Yes] Jesus loves me**

**Prah Yesu rak chun**  
**[Yes] Jesus loves me**

**Prah Yesu rak chun**  
**[Yes] Jesus loves me**

**Prah-kum-pee sorn wai nae**  
**The Bible tells me so.**

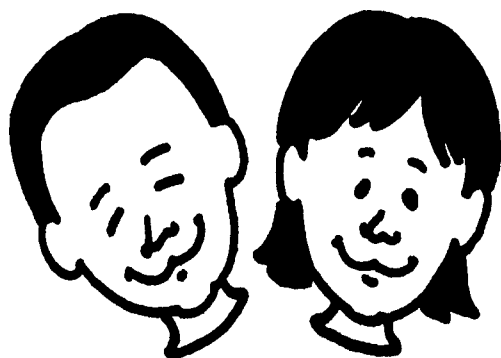
The words below mean "Jesus loves me" in the Thai language. Take a pencil or crayon and try writing the letters on the line below. Hint: begin writing letters at the curl.

พระเจ้ารักฉัน

### Thai Nicknames

Thailand (TIE land) has been nicknamed the "Land of Smiles." The Thai people smile a lot, when they are happy and even when they are feeling shy or unhappy. What makes you smile?

Many people in Thailand have nicknames, which were given to them as children. People call their friends by the nickname so often they may forget their real names! The nickname "Lek" means "little." Many red-faced babies are given the nickname "Dang," which means "red." Do you have a nickname? Does it describe you in any way?



## Let's Play a Thai Game

Thai children like to play a game similar to "rock, scissors, paper" called "bow ying chupe."

Here's how you can play *bow ying chupe*:

- Find a friend to play with
- Hold your hands behind your head, your friend does the same
- Together say, "bow ying chupe"
- Next, at the same time, both of you bring one of your hands out in front and make the sign for a rock, scissors, or paper
- Who wins? The rock breaks the scissors, the scissors cuts the paper, and the paper covers the rock.



## Count To Five In Thai

Learn to count from one to five in the Thai language.

One = neung (NOONG)

Two = song (SONG)

Three = sam (SAHM)

Four = see (SEE)

Five = ha (HAH)

## Make a Cross

Art in Thailand is often very colorful with lots of gold, bright colors and beautiful patterns. Thai people also use jewels on costumes and fancy clothing.

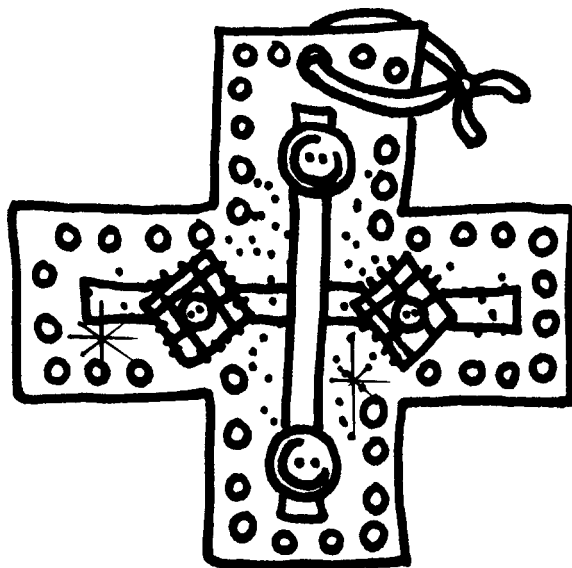
Make a cross and decorate it Thai style. Let the gold remind you of how we reflect God's love to our family and friends. Hang it in a place where it can reflect the sunlight and also remind you to pray that the people of Thailand will come to know Jesus as their Savior and best friend.

### What you need:

- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Glue
- Sequins, buttons, colored paper or fabric, ribbon, aluminum foil, gold glitter, etc.

### What you do:

- Cut a cross out of the construction paper.
- Glue on the different materials and sequins.
- Cut a hole at the top.
- Put a piece of ribbon through the hole and tie it.
- After it dries, hang it up.



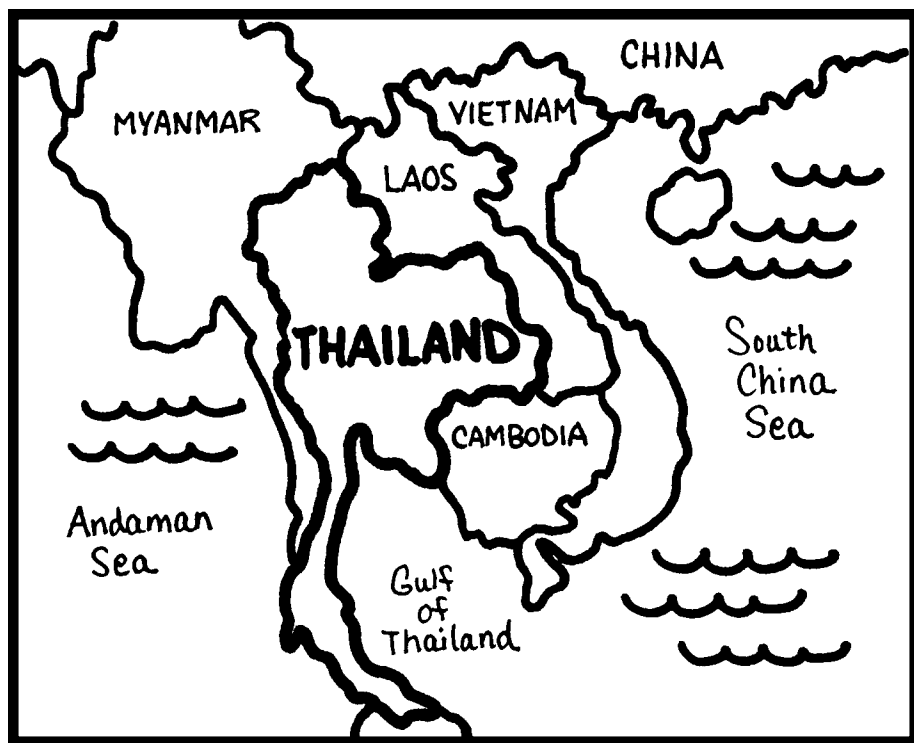


## parent mission FRIENDS

### Let's Make Friends in Thailand!

Your children have been learning about the people God loves in Thailand and the missionaries who bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to them.

Review the student and primary pages of *Mission Friends* with your children and complete the activities inside. See if your children can answer the following questions based on their study of Thailand:



1. Thailand is located in Southeast Asia. What four countries share a border with Thailand? (*Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia*)
2. What does the name "Thailand" mean? (*land of the free*)
3. Our missionaries work in the capital city of Thailand. What is the name of this city? (*Bangkok*)
4. What religion do most Thai people follow? (*Buddhism*)
5. Which animal is the national animal of Thailand? (*the elephant*)

### Here are some more activities you can do as a family:

**Find** Thailand on a globe or world map. How far away is Thailand from where you live? How would you travel to get there, and how long would it take? Call a travel agency or use the Internet to aid your search.

**Learn** more about Thailand and the people who live there by checking out books from the library. Also search the Internet for information about many of the topics mentioned in *Mission Friends*. Call LCMS World Mission for more resources about Thailand at 1-800-433-3954, Ext. 1318.

**Watch** a video about Thailand. Visit your public library or local video store to find a travel video.

**Pray** together as a family for Thai Christians and for Thai church leaders. Pray also for our missionaries serving there. (See “Let’s pray!” on page 4 of the student pages.)

**Check** the newspaper for one week to see how many articles you can find about Thailand.

**Learn** more about Thai exports, such as silk and rice. Visit your local library, bookstore or the Internet to find more resources on these and other exports.

**Visit** the zoo to see the elephants and take photos. At home, make a book about elephants. Your children can write the text and use their own illustrations and photos.

**Eat out** at a Thai restaurant. Check the phone book to see if you can find one in your area. Plan an evening to spend time together as a

family. Eat dinner there as part of your family time.

**Cook** a Thai meal. You can find a Thai cookbook at a bookstore or public library, or make the recipe in the student pages.

**Speak** Thai. Practice saying some of the Thai words found on page 5 of the student pages. Greet one another with a *wai* as described on page 2.

**ORDER** resources from LCMS World Mission. Call 1-800-433-3954, Ext. 1318:

- Colorful children’s missionary prayer book-mark was designed by missionary children in Botswana. Helps children pray for the needs of missionary children. S12771. Full-color, one free or 25 for \$2.
- “Mission Focus: Thailand” is a colorful single sheet describing mission challenges and opportunities in Thailand, and how God is meeting them through the work of LCMS missionaries. Includes prayer needs and opportunities for involvement. S12750, free.
- “World Notes” includes facts about each country where the LCMS is in mission today: its history, mission opportunities and LCMS projects, number of Christians, percentages of religious beliefs, religious leaders, etc. You may order the whole set or request the Thailand page only. Free.

*Mission Friends is a quarterly publication of LCMS World Mission, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295. The purpose of Mission Friends is to provide a realistic picture of missionaries and their work as well as the people they work with around the world. Questions about this publication and requests for free subscriptions may be directed to the editor by calling, 1-800-433-3954 Ext. 1318. Back issues are available for \$1 each from Concordia Publishing House, 1-800-325-3040.*