

# Introduction Thailand

The work in Thailand began in August 2003, when full-time missionaries, Dan and Pada Merrillat arrived in Thailand with their two young sons, Samuel and Benjamin.

Pada grew up in Thailand as a Buddhist. At age 15, her best friend became a Christian and invited her to come to church. Pada went for six months, and at the age of 16, she accepted Christ. In 1986, the church sent Pada to the United States to attend seminary. It was there that she met Dan Merrillat. They were married and pastored in the US for some time, until they began to sense God's call on their lives to return to Thailand as missionaries. There was one obstacle. Pada's mom was a Buddhist, and they were afraid that she might try to influence their two young sons to follow Buddha. They prayed. One day, Dan had the clear impression in his heart that God said, 'watch me work.' Three weeks later, Pada's mom accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior.

In August, 2003, the Merillats moved to Bangkok. There, they help the churches and pastors, and Dan teaches English and helps with church development.

They have a joint work with the Muang Thai Church.

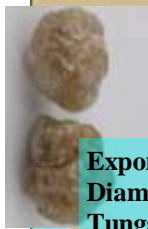
Pada helps in a ministry that works to prevent human trafficking of women and children. This ministry has a place for women and children to live, work, and have Bible Studies every day. Pada helps lead the Bible studies, counsels and teaches.

In March, 2012, Jason and Christine Blaikie, full-time missionaries, arrived in Bangkok to assist in a church planting project in northern Thailand.

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James Bond Island



Exports  
Diamonds  
Tungsten  
Shrimp  
Tin



# Thailand

Thailand was called Siam until 1939. It is the only country in SE Asia that has never been controlled by a European country

Thai currency  
30 bahts =  
\$1

Land of one thousand smiles

Bangkok's real name is the longest in the world for any capital. It is 173 letters long in English

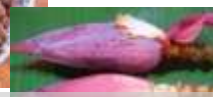
Fruit—Mangosteen, Pomelo, Rose Apple, Lang-  
Music Instruments Khene, Sueng, ranat, khong wonk lek

Facts about Thailand: 1. Religion—95% Buddhist plus small groups of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jews; 2. Thai language is tonal and has 5 tones; 3. Thai people often eat 4-5 meals per day; 4. All Thai males are expected to serve as Monks sometime in their lives; 5. Bangkok is the hottest capital in the world; 6. It is a taboo to touch a person's head—they believe the soul resides there; Thai's greet by clapping hands in front of them and bowing

Thai Food—Fried Insects  
Rice Noodles



Banana Flower  
Pla sam rot



Pad Thai



Chok



Fish sauce  
kang keaw wan gai



Thai spirit house—Thai people believe every place has a guardian spirit and so they build special miniature houses for them for good luck.



Thai dance costumes



National Flower and Tree—  
Golden Shower Tree  
Animal—Elephant  
Bird—Siamese Fire-

bird



Thailand has many Temples  
And statues of Buddha  
Emerald Buddha  
Golden Buddha  
Temple of the dawn  
Emerald Buddha Temple  
Wat Pho Temple  
Golden Temple



Special Holiday  
On March 13 They celebrate Elephant Day



# Children's Story

## Somchai

Somchai grew up on a rice farm in the northeast part of Thailand. During the planting and harvest seasons, he helped his parents work in the fields.

Somchai was 14 years old when he first heard that there were free English lessons offered in the village next to his. He wanted to learn English very much, so after school on Friday afternoons, he would ride his bike over the dirt roads to the next village. The classes were held outside, under the late afternoon sun. The teacher set a whiteboard on a stand, surrounded by a circle of white plastic chairs. There, he and the other children learned how to read and write in English. Somchai went to this class every week, even though most of his friends were off playing soccer. After two years of English classes, the teachers mentioned a book called the Bible and taught them some of the wise sayings from it. Somchai found these to be quite interesting as did most of the other students because Thai people like wise sayings and use them all of the time in their daily lives.

That same year, the teachers offered Somchai the chance to go to Bangkok for a special month-long camp to help students prepare for college entrance exams. Somchai went. At the camp, he learned math, science and English. One of the science projects was to make a bridge out of popsicle sticks. The winner would receive \$30, which was a lot of money for Somchai. His parents made less than \$100 every month working in the rice fields. He listened carefully as the teacher explained how to make his bridge strong so that it would hold weight. When all of the bridges were completed and tested, Somchai's won! He brought the money to his parents. They were so happy and proud of him.

At this same camp, Somchai heard about Jesus for the first time in his life. He thought the stories were strange and not true. When he told the stories to his family and friends, they laughed and said they couldn't possibly be true.

Somchai continued to go to English classes, and to camp every year. He kept hearing the stories about Jesus. He liked that Jesus was always willing to help people. The teachers encouraged him to try a 'prayer experiment.' They told him to try praying to Jesus after his bedtime prayers to Buddha and to ask Jesus for things that he knew were impossible. He decided to ask Jesus to help him go to college because no one from his village had ever graduated from college. After Somchai graduated from high school, he took the entrance exam for college and he passed! And then, the college offered him a scholarship! Jesus had answered his prayers.

At the Christian University of Thailand, Somchai continued to hear about Jesus and one day he decided to accept Him as his Lord and Savior. Soon he began to sense that God wanted him to return to his village and teach children English and about Jesus. When he graduated from college, he moved back home to do just that.

Somchai is still there today – teaching boys and girls how to read and write in English, but more importantly, teaching them to trust in Jesus.



# Memory Verse

## 1 Thessalonians 2:8

**"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."**

Divide children into two groups the "we" and the "you." Then each group says their part of the scripture to the other group. Once they have learned the verse then you can change the pattern. Have all the children form a circle and say the phrases one after another around the circle.

We—We

You—loved you

We—so much that we

You—were delighted to share with you

We—not only the gospel of God,

You—but our lives as well

We—because you had become

# Bible Lesson

## Mark 2:1-12

Jesus was at a house in Capernaum. When the people heard that He was there, they rushed to see him. They squeezed into the house until there was no room for anybody else! They were all anxious to hear what Jesus had to say.

There was also a man in Capernaum who was paralyzed. He couldn't walk. Four of his friends knew that Jesus could help him. But how were they going to get him into that house to see Jesus? There was no way that they could enter the house carrying a man on a mat. What were they going to do?

The homes at that time usually had flat roofs and steps leading up to them so that the people could go rest and cool off on their roofs. The roofs were usually made of straw, mud or thin plaster. It would not be too difficult to break through a roof, but it would be messy!

The four friends were determined that their paralyzed friend should see Jesus, so they climbed onto the roof, carrying him on his mat. They broke a large hole in the roof and lowered him into the room, right in front of Jesus! Do you think that the people in the house were surprised to see a man coming into the room from the roof?

Jesus was pleased that the man's friends had such great faith and were willing to help him. He told the man that his sins were forgiven. Some of the people inside became angry. They didn't think that Jesus had the power to forgive sins. But, Jesus knew what they were thinking. He knows everything. He told them that he did have authority to forgive their sins....and....that he could make the man walk. So, he told him, "Get up! Take your mat and go home." And that's just what he did – he got up and picked up his mat and walked out of the room! How thankful He must have been to Jesus – and to his friends – who loved him so much that they helped him to meet Jesus in a very unusual way.

Do you remember...

- 1.) Why couldn't anyone else get in to hear Jesus? / Why can't people in your country get to church?
- 2.) How many men carried their friend to see Jesus? / How many does it take to bring someone to church?
- 3.) Why did they have to carry him? / Why is it important to help others come to church?
- 4.) What did the friends do to get their friend into the crowded house? / What obstacles can make it hard to bring others to church?
- 5.) What two things did Jesus say to the man? / What do those you bring to church need to hear from Jesus?

# Da Guep

In Thailand the children often use what they have on them to play a game. One of their favorite games revolves around their flip flops.

## Set up

The children would look for a soft pair of flip flops and put one flat on the ground. The other would be put in line with the first about 8 feet away, but up on its side. The children then break up into teams.

## How to start

The head of each team would play rock, paper, and scissors to see who has control. Every member of the team who has control would go first trying to throw the flip flop lying flat at the flip flop on its side. If the flip-flop is NOT knocked over, every member of the other team gets a try to knock it over. This repeats until the flip-flop is knocked over. Once it is knocked over the game begins.

## How to Play

The team who successfully knocked over the flip-flop has to try to stand on the flip flop that was knocked over begins counting to 100. One person from the team tries to stand on the flip-flop and begins counting to 100, If they make it to 24 then the next player stars at 25 and so on. They can count as fast as they want as long as it is audible. Any person on the team can stand and count on the flip-flop but only one can do it at a time.

The other team uses the other flip-flop to try and eliminate all members of the counting team before they count to 100. This is done by throwing the flip flop at the other team. There is no safety zone. Any player from the counting team who is hit with the flip flop is eliminated from the game. The person counting can take their foot off the flip-flop to avoid being hit. They can put it back or allow someone else from their team to take their place to resume the count.

## Winning Team

If the counting team gets to the set number of 100 then the flip flops are put back in their original position and the counting team wins. They then get the chance to throw the flip flop at the one on its side first and the game starts again. If all the counting team is eliminated before they reach the set number then the team who eliminated the counting team wins. They then get to go first at throwing the flat flip flop at the one on its side.

## Note:

Usually there are set boundaries that you cannot leave.

It is a general rule that people hit in the head are not eliminated to keep people from doing this on purpose. You can also decide that a person is only out if hit below the waist.

Game Time

# Time for Prayer

- Pray for Jason & Christine Blaikie and their daughters, Aaliyah and Noelle, as they move to the North of Thailand. Pray for protection, good health, and quick adjustment to a new place, especially for the girls.
- Pray for Dan & Pada Merillat, their sons, Samuel & Benjamin, and Pada's mom, Kim. Pray for protection and good health as they try to help people know Jesus.
- Pray for the pastors of the Muang Thai Church Association that they will have strength, courage, and always know how much God loves them. Pray for their families for protection and good health.
- Pray for the people of Thailand who do not know Jesus, that they will be able to understand who he is and open their hearts to him.
- Pray that God will call more missionaries to come to Thailand to love the Thai people and help them to know Jesus.

# Activity

## Creative

### Batik Craft

This craft will take a little preparation before and definitely some after.

Batik is a way to dye cloth and make interesting patterns. It involves several steps. For this project you will need the following items.

1. 12 in square of white cloth for each child
2. Water soluble glue
3. Small art brush to apply glue
4. Cold water dye like dylon dye
5. A spray bottle for each color dye

Step one -lay cloth on newspaper or piece of cardboard

Step two—draw a design on the cloth using the paintbrush and the glue. Keep the design simple.

Step three—Hang the cloth up and spray with the dye that has been dissolved in the spray bottle (you can use more than one color on a piece of cloth)

Step four—let the cloth dry thoroughly

Step five—rinse the glue out in cold water (you will need to take the pieces home to do this)

Step six—to set the color the pieces will need to be washed in hot water. (be sure not to mix colors when washing)

Below are some samples of simple patterns.

