



Mennonite Church Canada

Forming a people of God • Becoming a global Church • Growing leaders

Thailand

Tom & Christine Poovong

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Dear brothers and sisters,

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017 to everyone, we wish you God's blessing to you and your family. May the Prince of Peace Himself be present with you during this holiday season to guide you and protect you wherever you go and do. Thank you for all your prayers and support for Thailand Ministry.

This year the Lord gave us many children to minister to. Some from far away village and some from our local community. In the picture you will see our own children Joseph and Phimchanok, and five other children that come to our church regularly. The two girls are sisters, Gong and Grace, and the three boys are brothers, Pee, Pai, and Phet. Gong and Grace's parents also come to our church and are part of our leadership team. The three boys' parents are working in Bangkok, the boys were raised by their grandma who also attends our church. Christine is working with her and teaching her about the Bible and disciple making. Please pray that she may be baptized soon. She also brings her daughter and son in law, parents of the three boys, to our church whenever they come home. We gave them the Bible to read as a gift. Please pray that this couple will understand the good news and give their lives to Christ.



For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. - 1 Cor. 3:11

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During our three months Canadian Ministry last summer, many things happened, including two families moving away because of their jobs. One of the families we are still mentoring is Grit and Na, and their two young daughters. This family has some farm land, about half an hour's drive from our church, which they are offering to be developed into a church camp. Right now Grit, the husband, is working at the factory near Bangkok while Na has moved with the children to live at her parents in Phetchabun Province. We have been encouraging them to come to live with us in Khon Kaen. We thank God for the transformation in the lives of this family. Please pray for us that this transition will happen and that the Lord will reveal to us how we can best work with them so that the call of God will be fulfilled in our lives.

We thank God for giving us the opportunity to impart our lives to work with the local believers and leaders in other areas in Thailand and Laos. In the picture below you can see pastor Pranee, from Sukdo Khorat,



beside Christine and Joseph. Behind Christine is Pastor Khamstone Vongsekeo (in white shirt) and his team from Laos. They joined us at the Thai Anabaptist gathering in DetUdom. Richard Showalter and his wife from United State came to minister to us. Richard Showalter, an historian and missiologist from Eastern Mennonite Missions, was the featured speaker. He shared story after story of believers from Pentecost to the present who, in the face of adversity, have born

witness and made disciples in confirmation of Acts 1:8, the theme verse for the event, "... you shall be my witnesses to the end of the earth." His book "Foot Print of God: Disciples making disciples to the end of the earth" has been translated into Thai language and miraculously arrived in the afternoon of the last day of our meeting, so we purchased ten copies to be used at our church.

Since that meeting we have been reading Richard's book together with others at Maliwan Mennonite Church to learn more about what it means to be an Anabaptist Christian. We are asking ourselves if we're ready in our generation to identify ourselves with the Anabaptists of 500 years ago. Christine and I are excited about what the Lord is doing in the lives of our people in Khon Kaen. The Lord is working in the lives of several Maliwan church members who sense God's call to make disciples, not only here in Thailand, but also in Laos. We thank God for Turge and Dang, the parents of the two girls in the picture on the top, who believe that God is calling them to be mission workers to the country of Laos. A young man named Benz, told us he believes God is calling him to be a disciple maker. And a housewife named Tah told us she has a heart for evangelist. We are excited about what God is doing here and we pray he will do the same at our home church, Trinity Mennonite Church in Calgary and our partner churches across Canada.

Please pray for us as we continue to minister and work with the Thai Isaan people and others so that the power of the Holy Spirit will transform their lives and become fruitful in the kingdom of God and our Lord Jesus Christ here on earth.

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Pray that the Lord will give us strength, good health and strong minds as we invest ourselves in the lives of these brothers and sisters.

May the Lord richly bless you and your family,

Sincerely



Tom & Christine Poovong

Witness Workers in Thailand

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donate.mennonitechurch.ca/poovong

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