



Thailand



Introduction to THAILAND

THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND, sitting on the Southeast Asian peninsula, is the only country in the region that has never been colonized by a western nation. Though economic and political instability has recently come to Thailand and social problems are prevalent, it is still known as a golden land for its rich history and natural beauty.

The THAI people

Total population:	65,905,410
Children under 15:	13,701,315
Average Life Expectancy:	73.1 years
Per capita annual income:	\$8,400
% children in primary school:	95.1%
Average years of education:	14 years
Literacy rate:	92.6%
Internet users:	16.1 million
Cell phones in use:	62 million
Major/official language(s):	

Thai
English

Risk issues impacting children:

- Child trafficking is high.
- UNICEF estimates about 1 million Thai children are at risk.
- Many will never attend school.
- HIV/AIDS rates are increasing.

More about THAILAND

Capital city:	Bangkok
Type of government:	Constitutional Monarchy
Square kilometers:	513,120
General terrain:	Central plain; Khorat plateau in the east; mountains elsewhere
Major industries/jobs:	Tourism, textiles, agricultural processing
National motto:	"Nation, Religion, King"
Major airport(s):	
	Suvarnbahumi
	Bangkok

Reaching THAILAND

Currently classified as World B: Somewhat Reached

Major religions:

- Buddhist - 94.6%
- Muslim - 4.6%
- Christian - 0.7%
- Other - 0.1%

Christian groups:

- Protestant - 29%
- Independent - 26.5%
- Roman Catholic - 25.9%
- Other - 18.5%

Unreached People Groups:	74 (96.2% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.03
Average annual baptisms:	20,328.54
Foreign missionaries:	2,100
Per million:	33.33
National Christian workers/pastors:	2,000
Per million:	31.75
Number of churches/congregations:	4,687

Children's ministry in THAILAND

Overview: • Mission work in Thailand is about 150 years old.

During this time, the Church has only grown to about 1% of the current Thai population.

- A focus on helping children in poverty and social need has been the trend among those who work with children in Thailand.
- Most churches have some type of ministry to children with training and resources lacking, especially in rural areas.
- While children and families easily make initial decisions for Christ, the cultural pull of families and Buddhist traditions pose serious obstacles to seeing converts grow as life-long disciples.
- There is a new vibrant trend towards networking, training and making culturally relevant resources available to those who work to reach and disciple children.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
4,687 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
13,701,315 children for Christ