



# end slavery.

*International Teams*

Prevention | Support | Restoration

# THAILAND

Training leaders to reach, disciple, protect and mobilise children to transform communities and nations for Christ.



Thailand is a country of 65 million people. The primary religion of Buddhism is practiced by 85% of the population and permeates much of the culture with its values and beliefs. Whilst protestant Christianity has been in Thailand since 1826, the number of Christians remains around 1% of the population.

Human trafficking, exploitation and slavery are all common in Thailand where thousands are sourced or migrate each year from poor rural areas in search of work in the city to support their families. Many women and children are at risk of sexual exploitation because of gender inequality, poverty and cultural obligations. Sex is viewed as just a physical act - one that can be sold, and this gives way to prostitution.



International Teams works alongside thinkSMALL in Thailand to see lives and communities transformed by the power of God.

- thinkSMALL is a registered Thai Foundation that trains, equips and mobilizes local children's workers and teachers to serve, protect and empower children to become influential leaders among their peers.
- thinkSMALL's vision is to develop leaders who will transform communities through their commitment to service, peace and spiritual living.



## CHIANG PHANG

In 2011, thinkSMALL trained the SBC church to present a Gospel show in Chiang Phang village. Chiang Phang is in Udon Province, the primary source of child prostitutes in Thailand. People in the village are poor and children suffer from a lack of education, vulnerability to drugs and sexual exploitation. Prior to this show, there was only 1 Christian in the village, and no church.

"My church and I are blessed by your ministry through the knowledge, challenge and encouragement to work with children in our region. God bless you and I hope to continue to work with you and your ministry to enhance His Kingdom among needy children and their families."

*Pastor Pracha, SBC Church.*



Immediately following the event 65 children and 6 adults came to Christ! There wasn't yet a place for them to meet so the SBC church brought them back to their own church each week whilst building a place for them to meet in their village.

Now, 72 children and 12

adults attend this new church plant, pastored by SBC. They have a Sunday school, kids club, English school, music lessons and soccer team. The Chiang Phang government even called the church to ask why children are now attending school and the number of child gangs has reduced.

The SBC church now runs Gospel and Drug Prevention programs all throughout the province of Isaan. They have trained and assisted over 10 churches to reach, disciple and protect children and are now partnering with the local government to bring the shows into public schools.



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## STRATEGY

### 1. Training

Local Christian leaders are trained to reach children through community outreach events and are empowered with a curriculum for church discipleship.

### 2. Outreach

Fun and engaging drug prevention shows are run in schools or the community to teach on the dangers of drugs and invite children into a relationship with Jesus.

### 3. Discipleship

Children who accept Christ are invited by the church to a 3-12 month discipleship course designed to provide a solid foundation for young believers.

They will also train parents and children on protection from trafficking and exploitation.

In schools, positive peer pressure to say no to drugs is created using anti-drug wristbands, a signed pledge and student leaders who are trained to teach a curriculum on drug prevention to fellow students.

### 4. Multiplication

Once a church has run a successful event and is growing, they can be trained themselves to also train others on the program which multiplies the efforts of thinkSMALL and increases the reach in the community.

In just 6 years, over 300 churches have been trained, 31,000 children have received Christ and 26,500 children are actively involved in

local church discipleship.

There is hope rising up in a new generation with Christian values, beliefs and a God centred view of human value and dignity.

**Local communities are being influenced and transformed by the Gospel being proclaimed and lived out by believers.**

As children grow and take leadership in communities and government they will re-shape laws, culture and families. Long term, this is the only way that trafficking, slavery and exploitation will be reduced to a minimal level - through the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

## OPPORTUNITIES

### :: PRAY

- Full engagement by local churches to raise a generation of young Christ-followers who will change Thailand's spiritual and cultural value system
- Openness by local governments, schools and parents to allow children to be served and discipled by the local church
- Protection of thinkSMALL trainers as they enter areas resistant to the Gospel and Anti-Drug messages

### :: GIVE

- \$600/mnth provides for a full time staff member
- \$2,500 provides for a resource kit to run a show
- \$2,000 each month for transport and accommodation
- <http://www.iteams.org.au/give/>

### :: GO

- Short term mission team exposure to the running of a children's program
- Creative people with skills in graphic design or videography are required to create professional new material

## ABOUT END SLAVERY AND INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

International Teams is committed to seeing lives and communities transformed by the power of God. Our ministries focus on the poor and oppressed in eight priority areas including Refugees, Muslims, Trafficked and Enslaved, Urban, Disadvantaged Communities, Children at Risk, Youth, Ethnic and Unreached.

Our End Slavery ministries seek to Loose the Chains of Injustice (Is 58:6). We are growing ministries across the globe addressing a broad spectrum of needs to end slavery from prevention to support and restoration of those enslaved.

There are an estimated 27 million slaves in the world today--more than at any time in human history. An estimated 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Approximately 50% of all victims are children.