

Thailand

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CHIANG MAI CHURCH PLANTING TEAM

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 2

2ND QUARTER 2025

Sewing Ministry



Precious girls are delighted to try on their hand-sewn dresses.

My home congregation supports missionaries in Tanzania and Thailand. We also have a member who, since retirement, has started sewing outfits for children. Through the missionaries she sends these gifts to poor children in those countries. I recently handed off one of these packages to one of our members who often visits the more remote communities in the north of Thailand.

It is now the rainy season, so the roads/trails are muddy and sometimes washed out. She handed off the package to another friend who got it to the kids. The kids were delighted, and some of them immediately ran off to take showers so they could try on their beautiful new dresses. It is beautiful to see all the members of Christ's international body working together to bless people like this. - **Sean Todd**

Proud of Our Women

The Payap church hosted a one-day women's retreat with 22 ladies from 3 churches. The theme was Quiet the (world's) Noise (to hear God's voice). The speaker was Aop from GIS. We had an awesome time doing all the activities together. I'm so proud of the Payap church ladies who helped put the retreat together very quickly and efficiently. - **Jan Reagan**



Pat Todd & Jan Reagan enjoyed leading fun discussion groups.



We praise God for these amazing women in our churches.



Four times a year, five churches gather for a day of worship and fellowship together.



Sean Todd leads the children's blessing time of worship.

Quarterly Combined Assembly

In 2000, after our second church-planting, we began meeting together once every three months to maintain connection and to spur one another on toward love and good deeds. A fellowship meal follows the worship, which also creates a joyous atmosphere. - **Robert Reagan**

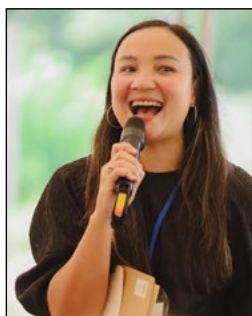
CCAT Hosts Mental Health Awareness Event



We prayed for no rain, but not for cool temperatures. In spite of the heat, we had a large turnout.

On June 7th the Christian Counseling Association of Thailand (CCAT) and numerous members from the Chung Doi Church hosted a mental health awareness event on CCAT's newly purchased land for their future facilities.

105 people showed up, including children from the surrounding community who drew pictures of their parents. - **Sean Todd**



Ying welcomed all the parents and children to the event.



Cream talked to these young girls about mental health awareness.



Pat Todd briefly explained what prayer is before leading a prayer.

Apprentice Reunion - 24 Years Later!

Jody Lee, and Russ & Rebecca Debenport were all apprentices in our Chiang Mai Apprenticeship training program in 2001.

We always love it when former interns or apprentices come back to visit our churches.

Recently we hosted a reunion party for Jody, Russ & Rebecca and their family members along with former Thai interns. - **Robert Reagan**



Jody



Russ



Rebecca



On the left: photos of Jody, Russ & Rebecca from 2001.

Group photo from the reunion party.

The Chiang Mai Church-Planting Team

"Building Communities to Reach a City - Reaching a City to Change a Nation."



5 churches planted in the Chiang Mai area since 1994

300+ baptisms

300+ interns & apprentices have been trained since 1997

12 Graduates Honored at Joint Assembly



Congratulations to each of these students for working hard and completing their degrees!

On March 30th at our quarterly joint worship assembly we honored 12 university graduates from our network of four congregations. Considering none of these churches have a formal campus ministry, this was quite surprising.

We honored the graduates with a bouquet of flowers, a cash gift, and a slideshow displaying their pictures and area of study.

The students came from four different universities in Chiang Mai and studied seven different majors.

Fields of study - art, education, business, psychology, chemistry and media. One graduate was a doctor who is going on to study in a specialty field. Some of the students will take a few months break before looking for work, some have jobs lined up in their field

of study, some are going on to graduate school, and one is working as a free-lance social media influencer.

One of the students was a young woman, Lukmee, from the Ton Pao neighborhood who received a scholarship from Urban Light and recently Highland Church of Christ. We are especially proud of her as she is the first person from her community to graduate from college.

She now has a job at Urban Light foundation.

While we are excited for their accomplishments, it is also bittersweet since some of them will no longer be in Chiang Mai and a part of our churches. Our prayer is that they get connected to a church in their new locations, continue growing in their faith and be a light to their friends and family.

- Ryan Binkley

Ryan, Ning, Lane, Knox & Fara Binkley



Spring flew by, and another school year for Ning and the kids is in the books. Fara finished up her chapel drama series, which featured the "Society of Sleuths" solving various mysteries that taught them about the different names for Jesus. Fara did an excellent job in her first-ever role on stage and hopes to have a leading role next year. Lane and Knox both finished their volleyball seasons and both placed 2nd in the conference. Ning was honored for teaching 5 years at Grace and will continue on for a 6th year in the fall. Ryan has been excited about a new church small group that recently started on our end of town. These past few months, however, have been

an anxious time for our family as we found out Ning's father has colon cancer. We are thankful that he had a successful surgery to remove the tumor on May 21st. Please pray that he will be cancer-free after six months of oral chemotherapy treatment. At the end of May, we landed in Irving to start our furlough with two weeks at Ryan's parents' house before heading to Abilene to be with Highland. Ryan has been busy with meetings and teaching, while the kids have all had camps and mission trips to attend and Ning has gotten some much needed rest.



Ryan always catches a Rangers game on furlough.



Ning is happy that it is durian season!



Knox wins another 2nd place medal.



Lane helped his camper catch a fish at Camp Barnabas.



Fara loved her camp at ACU.



Church leaders met at our home in March.

Turning the Curve at Payap Christian Zone



Our average Sunday attendance in May and June was more than previous months.



Our church has been blessed by Wiji's preaching.



Every Wednesday night before our cell group we eat a meal together.

Until recently, the Payap church had not recovered from the impact of Covid-19. When Covid assembly restrictions were lifted, our members slowly began coming back.

Then, however, one family moved to Australia. In 2024, it was difficult to see another family and a few singles decide to go worship elsewhere.

I praise God for the members who continued coming

and encouraging others. Our attendance stabilized and began to grow again in 2025.

It has been a shot in the arm for our church to have Wiji and Poppy back at our church after studying two years at South Pacific Bible College in New Zealand. Even though they are not on staff with our church, their enthusiasm has brought a renewed excitement to our congregation. -**Robert Reagan**

Friendship Lessons at PCZ

Twice a week, I teach 4-5 students the Friendship lessons.

It's been fun to watch these university students from Chiang Mai improve their English skills while developing faith in Christ.

I asked a student how much she believes, and



she said, "About 60%." Another student said she believes, "Even more than that." -**Robert Reagan**

Robert, Jan, Erika & Branson Reagan



I have slowly recovered from a severe pinched nerve in my lower back. It still irritates me if I sit too long, but praise God it's not too painful. In May, Jan made a short trip with her two sisters to Ohio to help out their Aunt Beni. In June, Jan went down to Bangkok for her Aunt Beni's birthday. I think they ate durian together several days while she was there. I really enjoyed fellowship again this year with Doug McGown, who came to visit me in May. Doug and I came together to Bangkok as two-year interns in 1984. He still speaks Thai fluently even though he hasn't lived here since 1986. I call him Roamanoski because he likes to roam around and meet people, encourage

them and make them smile. Tyler, Erika & our 3 granddaughters recently visited Tyler's relatives in Minnesota. Now that they have adjusted there lives to the warm weather in Florida, they felt so cold in Minnesota. However, the amazing fellowship with family there warmed their hearts. I recently had a skin tag/cyst on my eyelid removed. The recovery time was more than I thought it would be, but I'm fine now. We are saddened by the loss of Lee & Emily Dedear's parents. Lee's father passed away at nearly 100 years old and Emily's father lived to be almost 100, too.



Jan helped her Aunt Beni celebrate her birthday with a durian feast.



Erika & our precious granddaughters.



Tyler, Erika & the girls enjoy a week in Minnesota.



Doug McGown, Joe, Weem and I enjoying a mountain coffee shop.



Blueberry picking to make lots of blueberry jam!



Mugs with our grandparent names: Mimi & Bumpa.

Chung Doi Church Family Tree

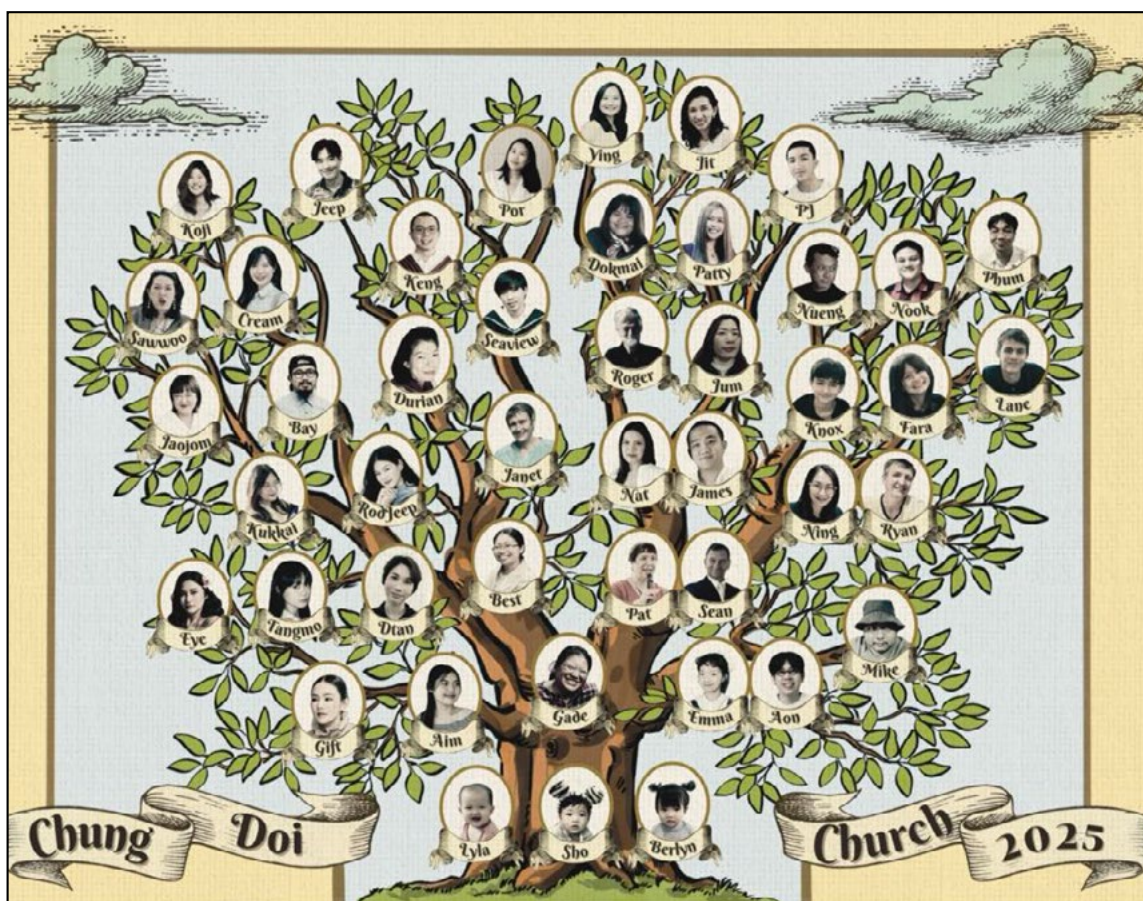
Doing life with this congregation is an adventure.

10 of these 45 people joined us within the past year. By the time you see this, two will have moved, and a new baby will have joined us.

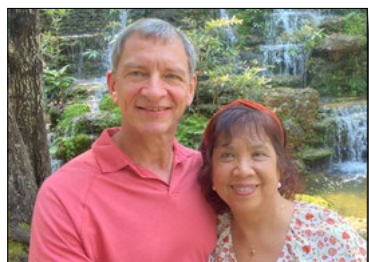
Nine have obvious musical talents. Four have backgrounds in psychology or counseling. Four of them we don't see often.

Many are gifted speakers or have artistic skills. Some are extroverts, some introverts. Most come from broken homes. 70% of the adults are single. 62% are female. Most speak some English, enjoy coffee, and have a bachelor's degree and a social media account.

A few have large followings. All are famous in God's eyes. - Sean Todd



Sean, Pat, Asia & Benjamin Todd



Furlough was delightful. The family celebrated birthdays for my granddaughter (7), my mom (82) and myself (60). We went hiking with kids and grandkids in Oklahoma. Pat's hay fever was not as bad this year. I got to preach in English about crossing the Red Sea. I got to run in clean, cool air on the roads of my youth. We visited several life groups and celebrated Thai New Year's (Songran) with the Christ Connect Church. We were able to reconnect with most of our stateside family members over many delicious meals. I loaded up on comfortable shirts and quite a few books. Arriving back I saw that the Thursday cell

group had grown significantly during my six-week absence. It seemed like a good juncture for me to step aside and apply myself to other ministries. I am not quite sure what those will be yet, but at present I am busy preparing notes for cell group lessons about spiritual disciplines. We are organizing the family camp for area churches near the end of July. We finished numerous home repair projects just in time to host some old friends who came through town. We have also become better acquainted with some new members who have moved into town.



Celebrating our 36th anniversary at a restaurant with a mountain view.



I pigged out on Chipotle with the Christ Connect Church missions committee and their spouses.



We rejoice with Cream who was baptized by Gade on May 18th.



Canoeing with my grandson Leo & granddog Lanna in Broken Bow, OK.



Sending our granddaughter off to school in the morning.



Pat hugging Leo in the cool April weather shortly after our arrival.