



...And work for the peace and prosperity of Bangkok. Pray to the LORD for that city where you are held captive, for if Bangkok has peace, so will you... – Jeremiah 29:7

Iven & Kashmira Are Moving To Thailand!

On September third (seven days before our one-year anniversary!) we are leaving Seattle to change the world. And we are asking you to help us!

After much prayer, discernment, counsel and process we believe that God is inviting us to join our lives with the people of Bangkok and make Thailand our home.

Initially, we plan to partner with YWAM Thailand as interns working under and learning from Youth With A Mission's community in Bangkok. Eventually Kashmira hopes to work with or establish a ministry that focuses on the needs of male prostitutes, serving and loving in the way of Jesus. Iven might follow Jesus into the slums, perhaps participating in the birth of a house church planting movement. Together, we are excited to be following Jesus to Bangkok.



Why Bangkok?

Kashmira Says: I took my first trip to Thailand over six years ago as a student with YWAM. Since then I have yearned to go back long-term. In 2003 I spent three months in Bangkok as an intern with a Thai church. During my internship some Thai Christian friends brought me to Pattaya, a coastal city which exists primarily as a place for foreign sex tourists. They had prepared me by saying, "When you go there, you will see lots of Thai women prostitutes with old white men and it will break your heart." I did see that there, and the reality of it was startling, but I also noticed something else. Not as common as the women, but still very visible were dozens of young Thai men also prostituting themselves and accompanying older Western men. When I asked my Thai friends about these men they didn't know what I was talking about – they had not even noticed their presence. Upon returning to Bangkok it was even more obvious and prevalent. After having my eyes opened to this desperate group I have searched and searched but have not yet been able to find a single ministry reaching out to Thai male sex workers. Since learning of this great need and already feeling drawn to the people of Thailand, I have been compelled to pursue moving there to start or join a ministry reaching out to these young men.

Iven Says: From our very first date I knew that in courting Kashmira I was also courting her call to Bangkok. For a time I wrestled with that – sure, I like Thai food, but was this how God most wanted to use me? It's true that I had never been to Bangkok when I decided to marry Kashmira, and to this day God has never said, "Iven – you need to move to Bangkok." But God has been teaching me to love the urban poor since my first real conversation with a homeless woman (her name was Mary) back in 1998. And God has been leading me to love the nations and people of other cultures for almost as long. From my first rather reluctant missions trip to Albania through my "part-time-just-to-pay-the-bills" administrative work supporting global missions, God has made it abundantly clear that he desires for me to serve him overseas. Whether praying in the slums of Mumbai or learning about how important hope is from a homeless artist in Portland, God has called me to love the poor. And I am certain that my passion to see that people are well fed, adequately housed and full of the hope found in Jesus can grow just as fruitfully among the 1,024 slums of Bangkok as it can in the streets of Seattle or Portland or Calcutta. "Why Thailand?" That's easy, because God loves Thai food! And God loves Thai people too.

How will we get there?

We plan to attend a five month training school with YWAM (Youth With a Mission) starting this September. The first three months will be in San Francisco, and the last two months will be with an outreach team in Thailand and Vietnam. In the end of January (2007) the outreach team will return to San Francisco, but we plan to remain in Thailand and begin working full-time with YWAM in Bangkok.

What Will We Be Doing?

Our first two years in Thailand we will be interns focused on language study and acclimating to Thai culture. We will also be learning about the specific needs of male sex workers and working alongside the existing ministries of YWAM Bangkok. We are confident that over time God will give us clarity in the direction of how we are to care for and serve those He leads us to while in Thailand.

It Takes More Than Two

As we trust God to meet our needs and prepare our steps, we are aware that this long-term vision cannot become a reality without a strong community committed to supporting and praying for us and the work God leads us to serve in. This is where you come in!

Our monthly budget in Thailand is about \$2,500 US. We are responsible for raising this money ourselves, through the help of people like you who care about the work we will be doing and would like to invest in us and this ministry through regular tax-deductible financial gifts.

Please do take some time to pray and discern if God may be leading you to join our team and support His work in Bangkok.

Connecting With You, Our Loved Ones

As our departure dates draw nearer we will be contacting many of you personally (feel free to give us a call or drop us an email too – especially if you feel like, “hey, why haven’t they given me a call yet?”). We would love to meet with you and share more about this great thing that God is leading us into, to personally invite you to join our support team, and of course to have a great hoorah before we move overseas!

Youth With A Mission Thailand is committed to communicating the Gospel and making disciples of Christ among Thailand's unreached peoples and those of surrounding nations through training, evangelism, church planting, mercy ministries and partnership with local churches and other Christian organizations.

www.ywamthai.org



Guen & Pan – Friends of ours on staff with YWAM Thailand

THANK YOU!

We have been so lovingly supported by so many of you (thanks again for those who helped with our wedding!), and we are very grateful for your involvement in our lives. Thank you so much for the love you have poured out upon us. We are truly blessed!!

May God grant you peace and abundant joy!!

Iven and Kashmiria Hauptman