

Youth With A Mission: Thailand – Reverend Claire Sullivan



Ministry Focus:

Youth With A Mission (YWAM) is a global movement of Christians from many denominations dedicated to presenting Jesus personally to this generation, to mobilizing as many as possible to help in this task, and to the training and equipping of believers for their part in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Strategies for Sharing the Gospel in this Ministry:

Church planting year two; Evangelism; Discipleship; Community Outreach on foot to room visits of migrant workers and families; Humanitarian Aid; Small group worship, prayer, and teaching guitar; Prayer walking and driving; Community development with local businesses, nonprofits and nearby school; Thai and Burmese Bible distribution; Teach ESL and Thai to Migrant Workers.

Presently in the start of year two planting Khian Khan Church in Bangbon, Bangkok. Bangbon is not a city; it is a district in Bangkok. Coming alongside a young Thai pastor to reach an area full of migrant workers from Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia. **There are presently 1269 factories with deplorable housing for migrants and no church.**

- Rak-teh Slum Ministry in Bangkok. Rak-teh is an eight-block slum. We have an outdoor church every Monday night on the street and I provide pastoral support for the founder/leader, new disciples from the slum; We are presently reaching the streets of the slum on foot providing food, masks, hand spray, and scripture. Since our presence during the Covid Surges there we are seeing the Lord move on the hearts of working girls this year like never before.. We just had 40 working girls come to a Christmas event at our center with 3 former prostitutes that are now leaders in this field who gave their testimonies. Women were breaking down and weeping in need of prayer. **Recently we were the first Christian ministry in Bangkok** to be invited to do what we do on Bangkok City Hall Plaza. **Never before.** We were told we could share our faith in Jesus and evangelize (converting people is against the law) and pray. We brought 17 barbers, stylists and manicurists. We had prayer stations and we knew the Kingdom of God was seen and gave out 300 gift bags with what seemed endless queues. (In my recent newsletter). Public officials were checking out our Rak-teh area.
- The economy in my “Hood” of Bangplad, Bangkok is fueled by warehoused prostitution. Currently developing trusting relationships with business owners in the area to gain their needed support. I am very well known and trusted in this area because this is where I use the local services such as salons, purchase groceries and invest in the community. I was hoping that I would be teaching more English but there is a greater need in Bangbon for English and Thai language learning. This coming year I sense more of a transition to Bangbon but staying connected to Rak teh providing counseling, pastoral care and leadership development.
- It seems to me that my gifts of pioneering in subcultures, pastoring and my skill of being certified in ESL are turning toward Khain Khan Church. Pastor Dong will spend his last day at the church where is now pastor full time on December 31st and move to Bangbon. I believe my English lessons will begin in our space where we opened our Khian Khan Church and Cafe and both Pastor Dong and I will pastor this planting together after January 31st.

Prayer: I have gathered a prayer folder over the years including St. Michael’s staff and friends. Wherever I go prayer walking and biking I meet people on my rides at coffee shops, etc. I keep a list of every new person I meet and let them know I will be praying for them **every night**. When I see them again I let them know by name I prayed for them “last night.” This seems to have an impact on those I meet. I do this also for business owners and write reviews for these cafes and restaurants. They are really blown away that anyone would do this, nevermind a foreigner. It has to be one of my greatest joys. It takes time but prayer and building relationships are central to pioneering and preparing hearts for Jesus.

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Financial Needs:

Provision for rent, utilities, maintenance, food, clothing, insurance (life, health and accident), and medical expenses, Thai language studies mandated and materials, out-of-pocket medical (after getting Covid I have been continually at the hospital for severe left side head pain. The next steps are MRI's. This is all out of pocket right now. This does not keep me from doing what I am called to do. God empowers me daily to serve him and others; Visa/immigration expenses, flights within South East Asia and to return to the US. I bought my first 2019 car this year. I never wanted one because of the added expense but there is no way to get to Bangbon adding more insurance and repair costs. **I realize that expenses I mentioned are not items that St. Mikes Mission's funds; but are daily needs to remain here.** Thanks to St. Michaels we were funded in November (or funds arrived) and this enabled us to purchase a "real" barista machine that we can use for training, transportation costs to Bangbon, funds to purchase Bibles in Thai and Burmese. This is a big expense this coming year and cafe supplies.

Total amount needed to sustain my cost of living here is \$30,000 but this does not include the need for a 2nd barista machine, food costs for families, a projector for worship slides in Thai and Burmese, and this year we have to find a bigger and affordable space for the church. We can only fit about 20 people (packed) in the space and hopefully keep the space we are in for an office for pastoral care in this neighborhood. I would say that items that are fundable under St. Michaels policies might be: the 2nd new barista machine, water filter, transportation costs through the year 2023, electric fans, a projector for worship in Thai and Burmese, and cost of signage. This comes to about \$4150 on top of my \$30,000.

Prayer Needs:

1. Thailand is less than 5% Christian. Please pray that Jesus Christ is revealed.
2. Please pray for unity among Thai churches. There are many divisions.
3. Prostitution is rising in Bangkok since the border opened. It is rising right in my building. There is a new population that is being exploited of female college students on and off campuses and in my building. My building has an increasing number of young girls who are being trafficked right here and online. I believe it might be linked to the warehouse prostitution behind my building.
4. The Thai language is extremely difficult but I am managing.. Please pray for my ability to hear and understand.
5. Please pray for a larger space for Khain Khan Church
6. Please pray for Burmese speaking missionaries to come alongside us in reaching the largest population in Bangbon from Myanmar. Bangbon is nicknamed "Myanmar City."

Short-term Mission Opportunities: Yes, when travel is without restrictions to and from the U.S.

- Evangelism; joining in special events and giving testimonies, short messages, bringing food bags and supplies to doors.
- Provide message and lead worship Rak-teh outreach church in slum and a slew of opportunities through the YWAM Thailand and Bangkok base. These types of opportunities would run through a process and plan through our Outreach Department from housing, food, outreach opportunities need planning ahead.
- Prayer walking and driving throughout Bangbon in neighborhoods and outside factories
- Bible distribution to Myanmar, Thai, Cambodian and Laos Migrant Workers
- Outreaches in Rak teh to Working Girls providing food, toiletries and prayer
- Sending outreach gift packages of toiletries for adults and children
- Much more . . .