

SATISFYING THE NEEDS OF THE OPPRESSED

LIGHT
WILL
RISE

FOR FREEDOM
INTERNATIONAL

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER AND OPERATIONS DIRECTOR OF FOR FREEDOM INTERNATIONAL

Dear Friends,

History is filled with countless bold decisions by Christ followers that made Jesus more famous around the world. We as a global family share in that same mandate today as we continue to be encouraged and empowered by Jesus' teaching that we are His light to a world searching for more.

This is an exciting time for us at For Freedom International. We see the Lord joining together the sparks of opportunity to bring His hope and light to the least of the least. I believe that now is the time for us to join together, on behalf of the oppressed and marginalized, to significantly expand the reach of FFI in Southern Thailand. We do this to bring His light to present difficulties. The radiance of Christ is advancing in this land, and it is leading to an even more glorious midday. Light will rise! 🌞

For His fame,



Darren Herbold
Founder | For Freedom International




LIGHT W

Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. 'If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and **if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.'**

~ISAIAH 58:9-10

Could you bring significant impact to the oppressed? What if you could be a part of our team facilitating 75,000 Gospel-centered conversations, teaching 15,000 students about safety and self-worth, strengthening 250 family units, supporting 310 trafficking cases, and sheltering and training 233 victims of exploitation, impacting a total of 90,793 Thai people in the next five years?

Jesus is the light of the world, and whoever follows Him will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. How thick is that darkness in Thailand? The statistics tell us that the southern provinces have 9,715 unreached villages with 9,803,458 unreached people. It might sound overwhelming, but the light of Christ is the light that will overcome all darkness.

God has kindled our passions towards spending ourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfying the needs of the oppressed. By his power, with the encouragement of his people, we could see his light reach nearly one percent of this unreached area in the next five years, leading to hundreds of new believers worshipping their Father! Let us become Christ-driven, Spirit-empowered statistic-changers by giving our lives and God-given assets to the business of "breaking chains of oppression so that people have an opportunity to encounter Christ, live in freedom, and change the world." 

Mattias Bjorkqvist

Mattias Bjorkqvist
Operations Director
For Freedom International



WILL RISE

IN THE DARKNESS

You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden...

Let your light shine before others so that they may glorify your Father

MATTHEW 5:14,16

For Freedom International started with a dream to see the marginalized, vulnerable, and exploited set free from the injustice of oppression.

That dream has drawn our team from around the world to Thailand, a truly beautiful people caught in the pull between extreme poverty and rapid development, which is affected by all the dangerous potential of globalization.



OUR STORY



2014
AUGUST

ARRIVAL IN PHUKET

Darren and Naomi Herbold arrive in Phuket to begin a Justice & Compassion ministry with the Christian and Missionary Alliance



2015
FEBRUARY

BEGINNINGS OF FOR FREEDOM INTERNATIONAL

First living room prayer meeting between the Herbolds and the Bjorkqvists with the dream of starting For Freedom International



2016
OCTOBER

TEAM GROWTH

The FFI team grows to include 14 people representing six different countries



2017
JUNE

FIRST CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRE

FFI receives its official Thai foundation registration, opens the first Child Advocacy Centre in Southern Thailand, hosts their first short-term missions team, and helps with their first international trafficking victim repatriation



2018
AUGUST

MOVE INTO MINISTRY CENTRE

FFI moves into their Ministry Centre, complete with a functioning hair salon and bakery



2019
JANUARY

LAUNCH OF PROGRAMS

Justice Semester and the Vocational Training Program both launch with seven students each

2020
MARCH



FOOD RELIEF & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

FFI adapts to Covid-19 and begins food relief and community development projects



2020
JULY

DEVELOPMENT OF FIRST ANTI-TRAFFICKING INTELLIGENCE TEAM

FFI develops the first anti-trafficking Intelligence Team in Southern Thailand



PREVENTION

FFI values developing local capacity and God-given potential. We have trained almost 2,000 local students and teachers on preventing sexual abuse and exploitation. We are also working to see marginalized communities economically self-sustaining.



INTERVENTION

When cases of child exploitation and abuse arise, FFI is committed to protecting these vulnerable children alongside local law enforcement and social services. We have also assisted with eight repatriation cases of internationally trafficked women.



RESTORATION

FFI believes in empowering those who have been marginalized or exploited, and so we provide vocational training and discipleship.

THE WORK WE'RE DOING

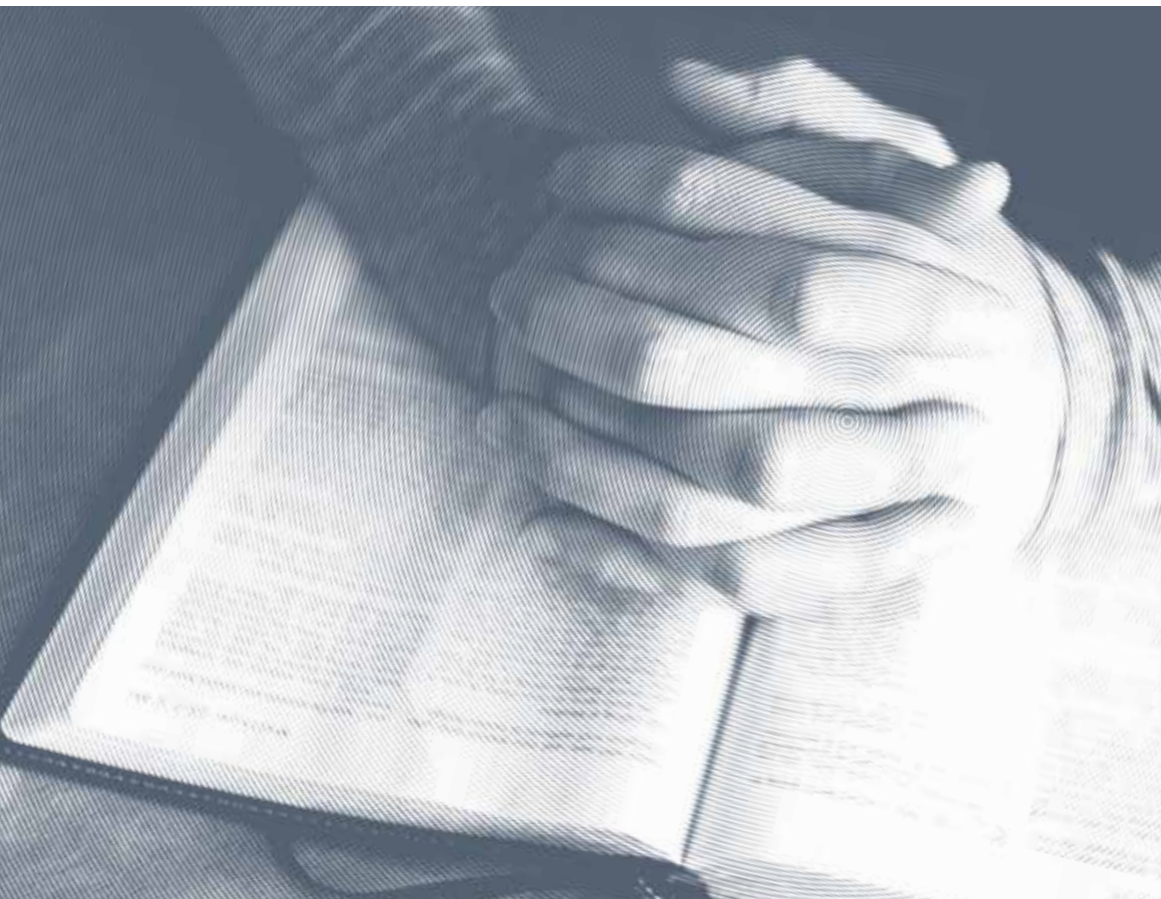


WHAT'S

NEXT?



It is astonishing to think of everything God has done through FFI since we first began in 2015 with weekly prayer meetings and tentative red-light outreach visits. If this is just the beginning, what might God have in store for the next five years?



THE CURRENT DARK NESS



Thailand is in desperate need of the Kingdom of God.

Less than one percent of Thailand's 69 million people have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, and that number goes down to only 0.01% in the country's southern-most province. **Where the light of the Gospel is lacking, the darkness of sin spreads**, as is overwhelmingly evident in the abuse and exploitation of children and adults through the purchase of sexual gratification. Predators and perpetrators thrive in the dark; their actions must be exposed and justice brought to victims, which is especially needed in Southern Thailand where **no other organizations are present to fight on behalf of the oppressed**. Systems must change to protect the vulnerable, and the current culture of stigma and shame, child abandonment, and institutionalized care intensifies the risks to the defenseless and marginalized in society.

We at FFI know that complex problems require holistic solutions.

When we look at Jesus's life and ministry, we can see that he cared for people's whole selves—spirit, mind, and body. We long for the people of Thailand to hear and respond to the message of the Gospel while also being able to live free from injustice and in a community that supports the God-given potential of each person.

FROM

NIGHT TO NOONDAY

PROPOSAL

To that end, we have a three-part five-year plan in place to see the light of Jesus rise in the darkness of Southern Thailand.



A nation-wide digital evangelism strategy

LEADING TO
75,000
GOSPEL-CENTERED
CONVERSATIONS



A comprehensive approach to fight human trafficking in Thailand,

IMPACTING
15,000
AT-RISK STUDENTS



233
VICTIMS OFFERED
SHELTER AND
VOCATIONAL
TRAINING



A FAMILY
STRENGTHENING
AND FOSTER CARE
PROGRAM TO SUPPORT
250 vulnerable
children and
care givers



310
CASES
BROUGHT
TO JUSTICE

RATIONALE

It is common for Thai people to search for advice or help online, and we want to meet them there. **We are mobilizing the small but growing local church to join our new nation-wide digital strategy offering mentoring based on biblical values to bring Gospel-centred hope and healing to the problems people are facing.** This online evangelistic mentorship platform designed specifically for the struggles that Thai people face will be through **HelpMe.in.th**.



DIGITAL EVANGELISM



KINGDOM IMPACT



150
CHURCHES INVOLVED



1500
CHURCHES VOLUNTEER MENTORS RECRUITED



15,000

PEOPLE HEARING ABOUT THE LOVE OF CHRIST ANNUALLY, likely for the first time in their lives! And that's if each mentor only has 10 conversations per year



FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

RATIONALE

How do you break the cycle of abandonment, abuse, and neglect that leads to diminished self-worth, increased vulnerability towards becoming predator or prey, and a myriad of other problems in society? **By strengthening families through the love of Christ.** We will train local churches members to care for abandoned children and adolescent girls pregnant by abuse or exploitation through adoption and fostering. We will also strengthen existing family units in need to better care for their own.

KINGDOM IMPACT



NUMBER OF TRAINED FOSTER FAMILIES in the South DOUBLED IN FIVE YEARS



105
CHILDREN GIVEN FAMILY-BASED FOSTER CARE



45
ABANDONED CHILDREN ADOPTED by Christian families

3 FOCUS



ANTI-TRAFFICKING

RATIONALE

Prevention: We believe the fight against human trafficking must come from every angle. Our approach will be made more effective through the opening of a second location of FFI deeper into the least reached area of Southern Thailand. Through this branch office, we will be able to bring light to the reality of trafficking **where no other organizations are actively working.**

Intervention: While prevention and restoration strive to keep the darkness at bay, **the existing evil of human trafficking must also be fought.** FFI will intervene through the formation of our Intelligence Team, which will analyze and investigate suspicious activity and then build cases used by local law enforcement to convict perpetrators.

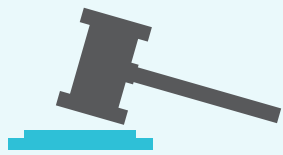
Restoration: Once victims have been recovered through these investigations, they need **a safe place to stay where their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs can be met.** Our Safe Houses will be a crucial component for the wellbeing of the women who will stay there and will be connected with our Vocational Training Program and aftercare services.

KINGDOM IMPACT



PREVENTION

- 15,000 STUDENTS AND THEIR TEACHERS TRAINED IN INTERNET SAFETY AND SAFE TOUCH across Southern Thailand



INTERVENTION

- 310 NEW CASES WILL BE BUILT AGAINST TRAFFICKERS OVER FIVE YEARS, bringing justice to as many victims and protecting countless others from harm



RESTORATION

- THREE NEW SAFE HOUSES OPENED, increasing the number of government-approved NGO shelters for trafficking victims in Thailand from 2 to 5
- 150 VICTIMS SHELTERED and cared for

HOW CAN WE DO THIS TOGETHER?

Our total five-year fundraising goal is \$806,274 USD. This may seem like a mountain of a sum, but if you divide that with the 90,933 people that we will reach through the programs these funds will support, one person in Thailand will be impacted in a significant way for every \$9 given!





FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

Program management and costs for training foster families is \$15,200 USD over five years. The cost to support 105 vulnerable children and adolescents who are pregnant or new moms through foster care as well as facilitating 45 adoptions is \$145,884 in five years.



ANTI-TRAFFICKING

The costs for hiring needed Thai personnel (Analysts, Social Workers, and Investigators) and purchasing required surveillance technology comes to \$391,190 USD over five years. The costs to open three Safe Houses to operate in conjunction with the Intelligence work comes to \$178,000 USD over five years.



DIGITAL EVANGELISM

The cost to employ one Thai person to build a network of 150 churches and see them trained in the HelpMe model is \$78,000 USD.

5 YEAR GOAL
\$806,274
USD

25
PEOPLE
GIVING

\$500
(ANNUALLY FOR FIVE YEARS)

1
ONE-TIME
GIFT

\$20,000

15
PEOPLE
GIVING

\$1000
(ANNUALLY FOR FIVE YEARS)

10
PEOPLE
GIVING

\$100
(MONTHLY FOR FIVE YEARS)

5
PEOPLE
GIVING

\$1,000
(MONTHLY FOR FIVE YEARS)

8
PEOPLE
GIVING

\$500
(MONTHLY FOR FIVE YEARS)

50
ONE-TIME
GIFTS

\$1000

FFI has an annual operating budget of \$300k for our existing efforts in bringing the light of Jesus to the people of Thailand. Your faithful support makes this happen; thank you for your generosity and trust as you consider going over and above these gifts for the Light Will Rise campaign.

WHAT CAN I DO NOW?



PRAY



Talk to God. Ask Him to lead you and give you a new level of generosity. Ask Him what your role in supporting the vision could look like. We encourage families to do this together.

REFLECT



Take the time to listen to God's leading. Examine your financial situation and look at ways that you can make a sacrificial gift, at one-time or over a season.

DISCUSS



Seek time to speak openly about your financial support with others you trust. Your family, friend, or financial advisor may offer you wisdom and clarity.

COMMIT



Step out in faith and give your support by mail or through our website. Send us a note at info@forfreedominternational.com to pledge your support!

NEXT STEPS

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING **CREATIVE IDEAS** FOR INCREASING YOUR GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



LIFESTYLE CHANGES

Consider exchanging spending on entertainment, subscriptions, dining out, or coffees on the go for monthly gifts toward FFI instead.



DONATE YOUR INCOME TAX RETURN

Tax refunds are often seen as unanticipated income. Consider pledging to use your upcoming tax returns as donations.



EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

Some employers will make matching donations for contributions made by their employees. Consider checking to see if your employer has such a program in place.



HOW DO I GIVE?



ONLINE

FORFREEDOMINTERNATIONAL.COM/LIGHTWILLRISE



CHECK

American Donations can be mailed to:

For Freedom International
3417 Ivy Drive, Grand Forks, ND, 58201
[Check payable to: For Freedom International]

Canadian Donations can be mailed to:

The Christian and Missionary Alliance
7560 Airport Road, Unit 10,
Mississauga, ON, L4T 4H4
[Check payable to: The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada
Memo: Phuket Ministry Center]

-OR-

Great Commission Fund
PO Box 14006, Abbotsford BC, V2T 0B4
[Check payable to: For Freedom International]

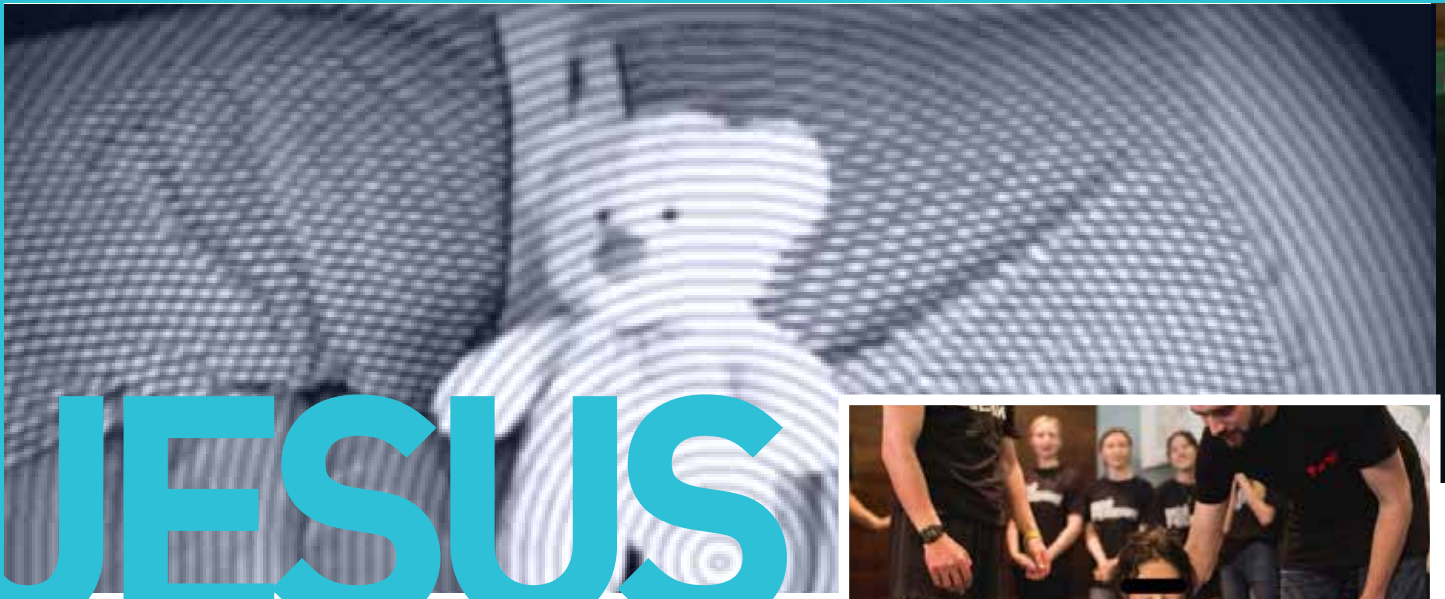
All contributions made to this campaign will receive an official donation receipt for income tax purposes.

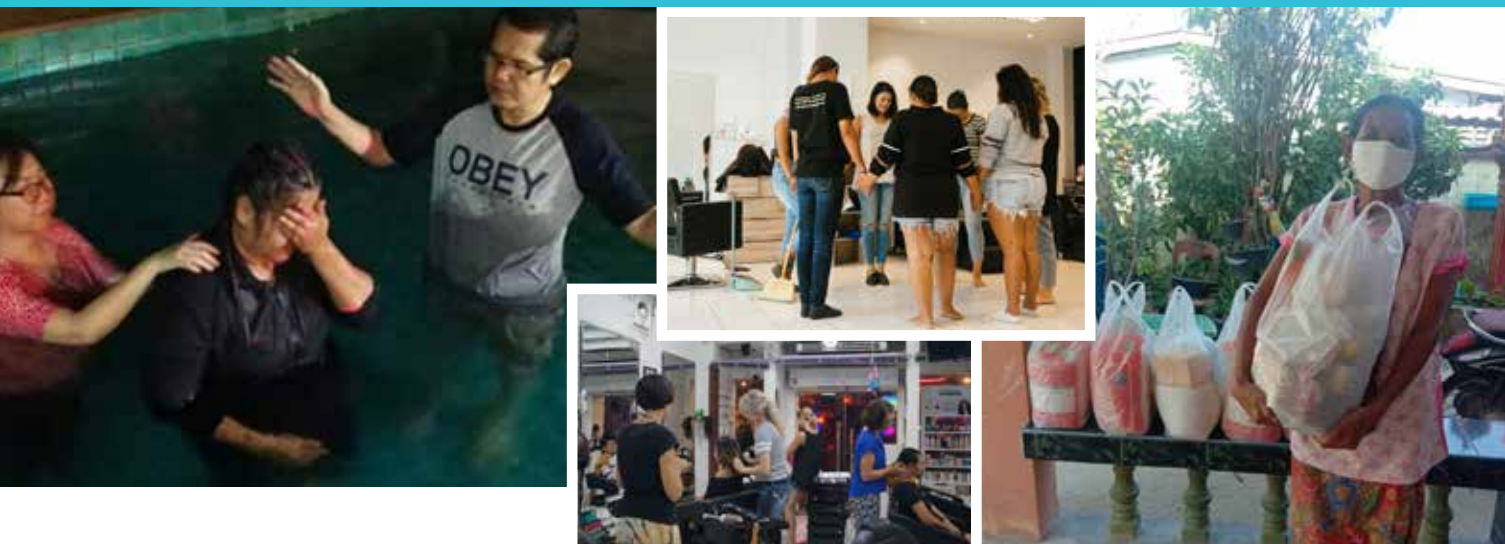


AN ONGOING FAITH PROMISE

By committing to an ongoing financial faith promise, you are able to budget for your donation in monthly or yearly installments while allowing FFI to plan the most effective means of accomplishing our vision. This five-year commitment is between you and God and is according to his leading in your life.

JESUS CHANGES EVERY- THING





Elena's* story is one of many we have had the privilege of seeing unfold (*Elena's name is changed to protect her identity*). Over the last several years, For Freedom International has been contacted numerous times by partner organizations with information they have received from women who are victims of international trafficking for sexual exploitation. As the only anti-trafficking organization in Southern Thailand, FFI has the privilege of assisting these women along in their journey to restoration.

On one such occasion, we met Elena, a young Russian woman who had hardly any possessions on her except for a white teddy bear. We were able to offer her shelter, care, and prayer while the police reviewed her case. The police soon realized it was imperative for Elana's safety to transfer her out of Phuket to a Bangkok-based Christian organization that cares for victims of trafficking. Elena sent us this text a few days later:

"I feel so much better right now. I'm reading the Bible and I went to the church on Sunday... you helped change my life and find Jesus."

After spending a few weeks in Bangkok, Elena finally got the paperwork she needed to return home. She connected with a church in Moscow, and after some months of discipleship, she sent us a photo of her baptism.

How wonderful is our God? He has called Elena out of darkness and into his marvelous light. We pray for the many others who are like her, that they will also receive freedom, life, and hope in the Lord. 🙏



NOW SHINE YOUR LIGHT

*With all that you have now been presented with, what is the Lord saying to you? **As you read this final devotional thought**, ask how God is wanting you to be a part of expelling the darkness.*





“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.” ISAIAH 58:6-12

The true meaning of fasting “that God has chosen” is when you put food into someone else’s mouth instead of only your own, or when you use your freedom to break chains of oppression and share the riches of God’s grace and love with others. Living this way will change us into satisfied people less in love with the world and more free to risk as we rely on the promises of God, firmly convinced that everything we have has been given to us by the Father.

Isaiah describes a dark picture of painful oppression. **God Almighty provides a remedy for this massive oppression faced by the people in Southern Thailand: the Light, Jesus Christ, shining through you.** The Southern Thai are the least reached of this least reached people group, and you have the opportunity to join the team of those taking the light of Jesus Christ to where his hope is yet unknown.

Three times Isaiah challenges the reader to be the tool to remove the “yoke” of oppression. A yoke is a device for joining a pair of draft animals in an effort to have them work efficiently for the driver. Try this thought: imagine yourself “yoked” to religious oppression, which steals your freedom and any chance of true hope, or “yoked” to a life of poverty, in which your loved ones are trafficked by the person who holds the reins. Not a pretty picture, is it?

Isaiah teaches us explicitly in verse 10 that, **if we make ourselves available, we can be the light of God’s love and justice in the world of hungry, marginalized, and oppressed people.** If we would “spend ourselves”, hunger could be sated, trafficking could see justice, and oppressive religious expectations could be obliterated. The bottom line? The people in Southern Thailand have a tremendous need for the freeing truth of Jesus Christ—He is the Light. Together we can see His light rise in the darkness so that this night will become like the noonday.🙏

