

High School Youth Choir Mission Tour to Thailand

June 21-July 3, 2018

Background

The youth choir and the youth department have alternated mission trips since 2004. This arrangement has allowed for better planning periods and for more variety. In 2010 and 2014 the High School choir travelled internationally to Hungary and Romania respectively working with Ralph and Tammy Stocks, CBF missionaries to the Roma people. Spacing these international trips by four years has allowed students one opportunity for an international trip during their high school years. These trips have been transformational for the students who participated, and the relationship and goodwill between our church and CBF Global Missions has deepened tremendously. The church has generously underwritten each of these trips through Missions endowments, fundraisers, and general budget funds.

Mission Destination and Purpose

Bangkok: weekend

- Public concerts and Worship Services with a Thai congregation.
- Amazing Race through one of Asia's largest public markets
- Thai culture and history immersion

Burmese Border:

- Concert, play games with children in large refugee camps

Roi Et:

- 900 students in welfare school where the Barbees are located
- English Camps in rural areas for a week.

Host Missionaries

Chris and Dora Barbee, First Baptist Church Partners, TMS Global. We are serving in Thailand, a country that is 98% Buddhist; a country where the Gospel has been present for over 150 years, but has made an only limited transformation impact on the country as a whole. The Thai are very proud of their heritage and motto that "To be Thai is to be Buddhist," and it is into that reality that we have the opportunity to serve the children and youth of Thailand through the transforming love of Jesus! We have the extreme privilege of serving under two Thai Jesus-following visionaries, that love their Buddhist countrymen and women with all of their hearts. They have substantial experience in effectively reaching their own people with Jesus' transformational power by loving them and serving them with 'no strings attached.' They continue to teach us of a faith that is strong enough to believe that God Himself will show up in mighty ways in the lives of Thai students in order to meet their pressing physical and emotional

needs. We do this primarily by helping them learn to use English, and showing them, through Jesus' teachings, the value that they have as students, community members, and children of God.

We are incredibly blessed to live on the campus of Thai government (and thus almost entirely Buddhist) welfare boarding school of 1000 students, that has welcomed us with open arms because we are bringing benefit into the lives of their students. We are teaching English and music to the student here and around the province of Roi Et in all under-privileged schools.

Through those interactions, the Love of Jesus is being manifest in many ways! Over the past 6 years, God has been growing the number of students who are seeking to know more about Jesus' love and how He can change their lives. Now, in addition to our Sunday morning activities for students from around the province, we are hosting 3 evenings of Bible studies/Jesus story parties weekly! One is in our home with students living in the welfare school, one is in the home of a Buddhist mother in a village who



welcomes us after seeing the fruit of what Jesus has done in the life of her eldest daughter. And the third one is in our English center, in the village of Banon, where our Thai teammates live.

Since May of 2016, God has been raising up our student leaders to help facilitate discussions amongst small groups of students in each of our bible studies, so we are beginning to see the multiplication we have prayed for and dreamed of over the past 6 years! Actually, starting in August of 2016, one of our former students accepted God's call to live by faith, leave her community of Roi Et (and Bangkok where she was a university student), raise her own support, and join this ministry in another province down south!

Eligibility

- High School Students who attend 80% of Sunday Rehearsals (24 of 30)
- 80% of Youth Choir Sunday Services (7 of 9)

Costs Estimates

- Air fare: *\$1300 (*Includes a \$100 increase since Sept. information meeting)
- In country accommodations/food/travel: \$800-1000
- Additional personal costs: wardrobe, passport
- We have requested ½ the cost for each student be funded by the Missions Endowment Fund.
- *The amounts listed above are estimates. As prices are clarified and fundraisers are held, we will communicate the final balance due in June.*

Payment

- \$200 down payment due October 8
- \$125 installment due each Sunday Youth Choir Sings
- Parent-led (Finance Committee approved) fund raisers
- See Doug or Terri about financial assistance

Passports:

Do not delay obtaining a Passport. Information on Passports may be obtained at www.myguilford.com/rod/passports. The Guilford County Passport Services Office has recently opened a **“Walk-in” “No Appointment Needed”** facility at 201 West Market Street in downtown Greensboro. This is now the only office in Guilford with this designation. You can reach their office at [\(336\) 641-5532](tel:3366415532) for more information.

If you already have a passport, it must be **valid for at least six months beyond the date of your entry** into Thailand.