

# OVERSEAS FIELD REPORT



A publication dedicated to making known the ways in which God is showing Himself strong on the behalf of those who serve Him.

Volume 1, Issue 1

Written by Joshua Steele

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## Answering the Call

*The seven single students of Nations Training Institute (NTI) and myself prepare for our first day of public outreach in Bangkok, Thailand. Clockwise from top left: Isaac Mazur, James Pratt, Evan Hein, Kurt Hein, Hank Thompson, Scott Appleton, Nathan Day, Joshua Steele.*

One by one we loaded our backpacks to overflowing with Thai gospel tracts. Cell phones were distributed, team assignments made, and maps checked one last time. The day had finally come when we would get our first taste of public outreach on the streets of Bangkok. We were all optimistic, though I must admit a little nervous, as we hailed taxis and departed for the downtown area. After about 40 minutes, we exited the taxis and

boarded the Sky Train, which we rode to the central part of the city. There we split into two groups, one targeting the area around Victory Monument (see page 2), and the other going on to Siam Central Station, a major business and tourism sector. The objective: get several thousand pieces of Christian literature into the hands of Thai nationals.

None of us who went out that day speak Thai, but T.J. Slayman, one of the teachers here at NTI and

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### How YOU can Pray...

- Pray that God would send more laborers to His harvest field.
- Pray for Brian Higgins, Jessie Beal, and the others leading the church in L'viv, Ukraine.
- Pray that God would give wisdom to the leadership here at NTI as we plan various courses and outreach venues for the students.
- Pray that God would give wisdom and direction to each student as they study and minister.
- Pray for physical safety for those living and training here in Thailand.

### Why THAILAND?



*Thailand's Royal Palace in Bangkok.*

American students, American teachers, English materials, and the missions school is located where? That's right! Bangkok, Thailand. The rationale? Many Americans aspire to be missionaries in foreign lands, and go through years of Bible college,

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Bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those under the power of darkness and proving to the world that God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

2 "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts."

## overseas field report

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our resident linguist, had taught us two phrases necessary for distributing literature on the street.

I was with the group at Victory Monument, and as we approached the structure, I began scanning the area for possible high-traffic spots where we could hand



*Victory Monument* out a large volume of literature in a short time. Having found such a spot (the base of a stairwell leading up to the Sky Train station), I left two men there, while I headed off with the last member of our group to a similar spot about a hundred yards away. We had been passing out tracts for less than ten minutes, when a police officer approached me and asked for a



*Bangkok Sky Train*

tract. I gave it to him, and after examining it for a few moments, he told us in broken English that we could not do this here. I tried to ask for alternatives, but he was emphatic. So we went back to the first group, expecting to find that they had encountered the same problem. They were still in business, however, so the two of us set off to find a new spot. We distributed some tracts as we passed through a crowd of people waiting at a bus stop, and eventually ended up on a street corner in front of 7-Eleven. There we gave out

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culture studies, and even the famed deputation, before they ever set foot in their destination country. Unfortunately, upon arriving there, the majority find very quickly that they are far from being ready to reach these people with the Gospel.

For starters, they don't know the language. Unlike other cultures, most Americans speak only one language and the thought of mastering a foreign tongue can be intimidating at best. This obstacle confronts the new missionary from the moment he steps off the plane, and takes him from being a dynamic young preacher out to change the world, to the equivalent of a one-year old child who doesn't even know how to say that he's hungry. And that is just the beginning.

Soon, the optimistic young missionary finds that evangelistic techniques which seemed unbeatable in his home town have little or no effect in this strange new land. Why? Maybe these people have no Bible in their language, and thus no frame of reference with which to understand the message of many Gospel tracts. Maybe the Bible exists in their tongue, but they have never been given the opportunity, nor shown the need, of reading it. Maybe they cannot read. Telling a foreigner that Jesus died to save them may cause them to envision a modern martyr if they

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*Students on the fourth floor of the NTI building listen intently as T.J. Slayman (inset) teaches Thai language.*

This newsletter was written by missionary Joshua Steele, currently serving in the Kingdom of Thailand. [joshua\\_m\\_steele@yahoo.com](mailto:joshua_m_steele@yahoo.com)  
Sending church: Family Bible Fellowship, 211 Old Steele Creek Ct., Azle, TX 76020 Subscription is free upon request.

# Facts about Thailand

**Population:** 62 million

**Capital City:** Bangkok (population seven million)

**Territory:** 198,000 sq miles (slightly smaller than the state of Texas)

**Government:** Constitutional Monarchy. The reigning king, King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) has been on the throne since 1946. He is genuinely revered by the Thai people, and has also gained widespread international respect due to his active, personal involvement in welfare and environmental projects throughout Thailand.

**Climate:** Hot and humid. The central and northern provinces have basically three seasons (rainy, cool, and hot) The warmer, southern region has only wet and dry seasons. Average humidity ranges from 66% to 88%. Average temperatures in central Thailand can range from over 100 degrees F to nighttime lows of around 55 degrees F in the cool season.

**Geography:** Thailand's diverse topography ranges from high mountains covered with forests in the north, to tropical islands in the south.

**Religion:** About 95% percent of Thailand's population are Buddhist. In the south, Islam enjoys a small following of Thais and Malays which amounts to about 4% of the total population. Christianity makes up another half a percent, while the remaining half percent are Taoists, Hindus, etc.

**National Sport:** Thai Boxing. This sport has been hailed as the ultimate in martial arts. In one famous bout, Hong Kong's top five kung fu masters were all "knocked out" in six and a half minutes.



## WHY THAILAND?

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have never been told that Jesus walked the earth 2000 years ago. In short, most heathens in the world have not grown up down the street from the local Baptist Church. Reaching the lost in foreign nations is a different type of war requiring a different type of training. The Gospel message is the same. However, many "missionaries" fail miserably when it comes to communicating that life-giving truth to non-English speakers in foreign

cultures. Here in Bangkok, with three experienced missionary staff members, two families, seven single students, and your prayer support, we intend to change that.



*Evan Hein hands a gospel tract to a Thai national.*

Nations Training Institute exists for the purpose not only of imparting knowledge to would-be American missionaries, but actually inserting them into a foreign culture, with all of its challenges, from day one. After nine months, we may not turn out any theologians, but we will have a group of real missionaries. Not wanna-be's or hopeful's, but

men of God who have faced the heat of battle and survived. They will have studied language, culture, theology, church planting techniques, computer skills, history, and a myriad of other topics which will prove to be essential on the field. They will have been on the street, in prisons, and in universities. They will have designed and printed Gospel literature for a specific target audience. They will have crossed borders, secured visas, navigated international airports, and dealt with foreign government officials - some friendly, some not. Last but not least, they will have learned to

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cooperate with their colleagues in order to achieve a common goal: the successful and effective propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Nations Training Institute is just beginning, but the potential is awesome. God has heard the prayers of His saints to send forth laborers into His harvest, and He is sending them. "The harvest truly is plenteous...", and reinforcements are on the way. ♦



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most everything we had without incident, and set off to find the others.

When we located them, they were completely out of tracts. We had a few left, so the four of us began to finish those up while I phoned the team at Siam Station.

As it turns out, they had had worse trouble with the police, and had been kicked out several times from different spots. We agreed that they would come to join us at Victory Monument, and once they arrived, we spent another hour and a half passing out the remainder of the tracts.

In the end, we gave away between three and four thousand

**NOTE TO THE READER:** Nations Training Institute was initiated and organized primarily through No Greater Joy Ministries, Inc. If you would like more information on how you can join next year's class, please contact us at No Greater Joy Ministries, ATTN: Nations Training Institute, 1000 Pearl Rd., Pleasantville, TN 37033, or find us on the web at [www.NoGreaterJoy.org](http://www.NoGreaterJoy.org).

pieces of literature and even had a few people sign up for correspondence courses right on the street! (All our tracts have cards inside, offering free study courses through the mail for those interested in learning more about the Bible.)

This story is only a sample of what these young men are doing here in Bangkok. In the next nine months, we will be expanding our ministry efforts to give these men as much experience as possible with different ways of adapting to a foreign culture, and utilizing the most effective and innovative methods possible to call men and women to salvation in Jesus Christ.

In our day, communications technology is broader and more refined than ever before, thus clearing many once impregnable obstacles to reaching certain people groups. In the past, Bibles had to be physically smuggled into some countries if those people were going to have the Scriptures. Now, the internet has crossed more borders and entered more homes than was once thought possible, and thus the Scriptures can be circulated in places which were previously unreachable.

If a minister of God utilizes the resources available to him today, he can spread the Gospel with a level of efficiency that is unparalleled at any other point in history.

Christian, what are you doing



T.J. Slayman, veteran missionary to the country of Laos, with his wife, Kham.

to win the lost? Do you care where they spend eternity? God does, and He is still calling for His saints to stand up, to speak, to go and take the Gospel to those who have not heard. The Bible says in Isaiah chapter 6: "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, **Here am I; send me.**"

Nations Training Institute is about equipping those who have stepped out to obey their Lord in answer to His call. They have lifted up their eyes, they have seen the harvest fields, and they are doing something about it. I praise God for these men, and I ask for your prayers for them as they train to go out into all the world with the hope of the Gospel.



**To God be the Glory**

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