

THAILAND

THE VISION – THE MISSION – THE NEED



Population: approx. 66 million

Area: 513,113 sq. km.

Religion: Buddhist – 92%, Muslim – 5%, Christian – 2%. Other – 1%

<http://www.mbmsi.org/connect/countries/thailand>

Team 2000 began our long term ministry in Chonburi where God has blessed them with great homes and safe neighborhoods. They have completed language study, started The Life Center church, and were instrumental in the beginning of our new ministry in southern Thailand.



Chonburi is in the area just southeast of Bangkok on the Gulf of Thailand. It has an international harbor that oversees trade with countries from around the world, and serves several industrial parks in the area. It is also a fishing center for the central Thailand region. Its beaches and tropical warm climate also attract many to resorts like Pattaya to the south.

In response to the devastation of the tsunami in December 2004, MBMSI International began "Operation Rebuilding Lives." Several homes have been built with the help of numerous short term volunteers from Mennonite Brethren churches in North America. MBMSI is also in the process of establishing a new church planting team for south Thailand.

God has been showering His abundant blessings over the [Abundant Life Home](#) (ALH), an orphanage for HIV positive children in Chonburi, Thailand.

ALH began as a dream that God put in founder and director Karen Sanchez's heart when she was just eight years old. As an adopted child, [Karen Sanchez](#) knew that she wanted to start an orphanage one day, but when God called her to the mission field years later, she thought she had to die to that dream. While serving with [Team 2000](#) in Thailand, Karen met Jintana, an orphan infected with the HIV virus. [Jintana's story](#) birthed a vision to provide a loving community for HIV positive orphans that would not only provide hope for the sick and despised children of Thailand, but also enhance church planting efforts in Chonburi through evangelistic outreach.

On April 28, 2006 ALH opened its doors to five 11 and 12 year old boys with the mission to care for HIV positive orphans in a high quality family-based model. Currently ALH houses six boys and six girls in two separate homes with one housemom serving as the head of each household. Housemoms must be Christian and are thoroughly trained to raise children using Christian principles in the context of Thai culture. Future planning for ALH includes building six to eight more homes housing six children each. Each home will have its own fence and property to cultivate a sense of ownership and family living. The plans also include a common playground, a soccer field, a basketball court, and a small pool to provide an escape from the hot Thai sun. The Abundant Life Home has been a prophetic name for this orphanage. All medical and dental care has been provided free of cost for the orphans at ALH. Two babies, Supageed and Apilak, were miraculously healed after having been born HIV positive! The boys are now healthy two year olds, and Supageed is in the process of being adopted by a family in Canada.

The orphanage is more than a mercy ministry. ALH's primary mandate is evangelism and one of the many ways that this is being realized is through break dancing! **The ALH boys have taken their break dancing skills from the streets of Chonburi to national Thai television, providing a means of building relationships and sharing the gospel. So far 30 teenage boys have accepted Christ through the ministry of dance!**

God has poured his abundant blessings over the Abundant Life Home in Chonburi, Thailand, but He longs to do so much more! With your prayers and support, God will enrich the lives of HIV positive orphans, those who are considered the least of the least in Thailand, and use them to transform the city of Chonburi, the continent of Asia, and the entire world. Please join us!

If you would like more information about the Abundant Life Home (ALH), please [click here to email Karen Sanchez](#) the orphanage director. Read the story of [Together for Thailand](#) to see how your church could support the ALH Ministry.

When the Abundant Life Home (ALH) first opened its doors on April 28, 2006, five 11 year old boys found a place where they could be nurtured and cared for as HIV positive children. Since then the orphanage has expanded to include a boys' and girls' home housing six kids each. God has been showering his abundant love on these orphans and showing the staff at ALH that these children will lack for nothing! God's heart for orphans is unfathomable, and He has called His people and the church to be parents to children who have none. God is healing lives and offering hope to HIV positive children, but the work He is accomplishing is only a small part of the plan that He has to reveal His glory in your own life as He transforms you. God invites you to look deep inside His heart and intercede for these orphans through, prayer, finances, and your presence at the ALH.

Let's work together to advance the Abundant Life Home in Chonburi, Thailand! Currently it's a piece of land, but Team 2000, MBMSI, the staff and children at ALH, and Christians around Thailand are praying that the vision for a larger ALH facility will become a reality. What if there were a cluster of homes housing six children each? What if there was a breakdancing room where children could practice their skills and take them to the streets to evangelize? What if there was a basketball court and a playground?

The Abundant Life Home has the potential of becoming a community that will nurture orphans and shine brightly God's glory as it reaches out to the city of Chonburi. Team 2000 needs you to make this happen. Join us in praying for this land, in giving your finances to purchase materials, and in offering your time to take part in this building project. Working together, we will see the girls and boys of the Abundant Life Home grow up to become men and women of authentic faith, leaders in their homes, and influencers of their nation.

Team 2000 works with the Thai Department of Social Welfare to provide orphans who are affected by HIV-AIDS with a loving home in a family environment. Abundant Life provides for their medical costs and education. These donations also allow for tutors and nanny salaries, food, and rent and maintenance of two homes with a third opening in 2009.

The most rejected and despised kids in all of Thai society are those with HIV. But we know that our God loves and has compassion for all people. When [Karen Sanchez](#) of Team 2000 learned Jintana's story, it became a reminder of what God called this church plant to since its conception: to extend a hand of mercy to Thailand.

Jintana was just a small baby when she was abandoned by her parents because she was HIV positive. Her life in the hospital wasn't much better. Without adequate care she became frail and lifeless. God opened the doors for Jintana's grandmother to release the baby to Karen's custody. One year later Jintana was thriving under the care of an orphanage in Chiang Mai.

In Thai Jintana means 'Imagine' and God stirred up an urgency for Team 2000 to imagine what it would be like to start an AIDS orphanage in Chonburi. On April 28, 2006, the [Abundant Life Home \(ALH\)](#) opened its doors to five 11 year old boys. Currently ALH is home to 6 boys and 6 girls. God performed a miracle at ALH when twin boys were healed from HIV!

There is still much to dream about! Team 2000 is in the process of buying 2.5 acres of land in order to build six or seven home with six children and a house mom in each. They plan to use part of the land to build a community park to bless their neighbors. Not only is the ALH providing a hope and a future to HIV infected children, but this orphanage is also reaching the Central Thai with the love of Christ!

Has your heart been stirred? We invite you to come Jintana with us!

LINKS TO FIND OUT MORE:

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