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# THAILAND PRAYER UPDATE

Issue 5

July 2012



## National Data

as of January 2012

**Provinces with a population of more than 40,000 people per local church**

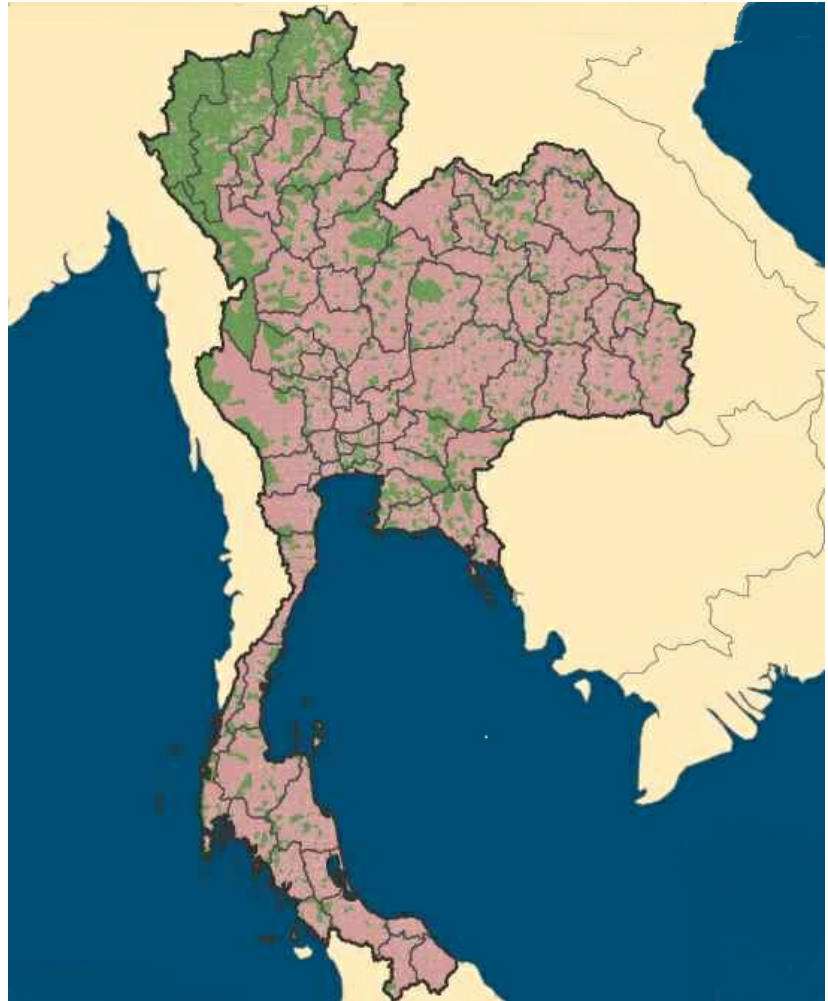
Province	Population per church
Narathiwat	368,581
Pattani	93,608
Nakorn Nayok	84,245
Si Ayutthaya	71,100
Yala	60,923
Phetchaburi	58,004
Surin	49,349
Lopburi	47,241
Ubon Ratchathani	45,327
Trat	44,184
Phichit	42,515
Phatthalung	42,461
Nakorn Sawan	41,288

The prior issue of the **Thailand Prayer Update** on worship languages can be found by clicking on this link:  
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### What is a Church\*?

A church is three or more Christian believers meeting together on a regular basis to worship God and is not a cell group of a larger church body.



Sub-districts without churches

Dear Concerned Christian,

A question frequently asked by Christians living and working in Thailand is "Why are there so few Christians in Thailand?" The question is complex and difficult to answer because there are so many aspects to it. However, one obvious fact stands out that helps answer the question, the lack of churches in most areas of the country. The map shown above shows this problem dramatically. The green areas represent sub-districts that have churches. The pink or salmon colored areas are sub-districts without a church.

**Sixty three percent of the country's population live in an area without a church.** Out of a total of 7,432 sub-districts in Thailand, 5,769 of them have no churches. 40,186,438 people live in these un-churched sub-districts. When you consider that each sub-district

\*only Protestant churches

### How we count Christians?

Of course God is the final judge. For our purposes we count Christians as anyone who is a member of a church. No matter if it is a large city church or a small house church.

**Note:** You are receiving this email because of your love and interest for the country of Thailand. The purpose of this email is to provide you with information to know how to pray specifically for this nation and to help you make informed ministry plans. We encourage you to share this email with members of your church, your small group, your social media network and among your Christian friends so they too can pray.

Please [click here](#) to email us your prayer requests, comments and updates

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has on average 10 villages, you can understand the problem even more.

According to Marten Visser's research in his PhD dissertation on the growth of the church in Thailand, he discovered that "People living in a village with a church are almost 100 times more likely to become Christians." (1) Therefore, **without a body of Christ in a local village those villagers will have a very small opportunity to see Christ demonstrated to them and to hear the Good News.** That is why this is so important.

Another quote from his dissertation that is quite helpful:

'Distance' is the physical distance between the potential new convert and the church. This factor is often overlooked in studies, but is certainly relevant. If a potential new Christian lives 100 kilometers from the church, it is almost impossible that he will hear about the church and become a member. If he lives 10 kilometers away, in most cases (urbanites with cars excepted) he will need a high level of interest to regularly come to the church. If he lives 1 kilometer away, he has a good chance of knowing about the church and knowing some of its members. If he lives 100 meters away, he is bound to meet many of the church members and see the life of the church. So, it is clear that physical distance can be an important determining factor of the likelihood of conversion." (2)

- Please pray that God would raise up many Thai Christians to go to these areas and start groups where believers meet on a regular basis so that those around them can hear and see Christ's love demonstrated.
- Please pray for TEC's (3) Vision 2015 where church members from all over the nation are committing to being "1 out of 100,000 to reach 1 million for Christ by the year 2015."
- Pray that as they are discipled and become disciple-makers themselves that they will go to the areas where the Gospel needs to be heard.

To find and research an area where God may be calling you to serve, please click [HERE](#) to view the interactive Christian Presence map of Thailand.

For God's Glory,

Dwight Martin  
Research Coordinator  
Thailand Evangelism & Church Growth Committee

(1) Visser, Marten, Conversion Growth of Protestant Churches in Thailand, Uitgeverij Boekencentrum, Zoetermeer (The Netherlands), 2008. page 152

(2) Ibid, page 57

(3) Thailand Evangelism and Church Growth Committee - a subcommittee under the CCT, EFT & TBC church councils. Also includes many independent churches

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