



Thailand January 2027
Missions Trip Information Package



International Missions Travel has a higher risk level and is more demanding than traveling within Canada or travelling internationally as a tourist. The information in this package should be carefully reviewed before applying!

Trip Summary

Hope City Church is sending a team of nine adults to Thailand to support ChildCARE Plus (CCP) communities in the Bangkok and Chiang Mai regions. We will be partnering with Matthew and Amber Price, with Matthew serving as our host in Thailand.

The tentative travel dates are Thursday, January 21 to Wednesday, February 3, 2027 (inclusive of travel days).

Pastor Graham will serve as the team leader.

About our Global Partners in Thailand

ChildCARE Plus (CCP) is a core program of [ERDO](#) (Emergency Relief and Development Overseas) which is the humanitarian agency of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. CCP programs provide education, nutrition, and healthcare to children to help break the cycle of poverty while also partnering with local churches in each community. CCP operates in 27 countries around the world.

[Matthew and Amber Price](#), full-time global workers (missionaries) with the PAOC in Thailand, lead ChildCARE Plus in Thailand. Their CCP team consists of 18 nationals, working in 20 communities, with over 400 sponsored children and their families.

Why Short Term Teams?

- (1) meet practical needs of local ministries
- (2) provide team members an opportunity to participate in God's redemptive work in other cultures and contexts
- (3) create and strengthen individual and organizational relationships across cultures
- (4) create opportunities for spiritual formation in team members

Activities

The team will serve in CCP communities in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, participating in activities such as English language teaching, children's programming, and community projects. Specific projects will be confirmed approximately three months prior to departure.

Team members should expect to serve between 7-10 hours per day. Cultural experiences will be incorporated into the itinerary.

Who can apply?

Applications are open to active participants of Hope City Church who support our [vision, mission and beliefs](#).

Team members must be in good physical, emotional, and mental health and be prepared to function in a warm climate, walk moderate distances over uneven terrain, climb stairs, and participate in full and active days.

Cost and Finances

Each team member is responsible for raising \$4,000 to cover their portion of the team costs.

As a ministry trip, all donations are eligible for a charitable donation receipt in the year the funds are donated. Charitable donations are non-refundable. If a team member cannot participate, funds raised will remain in the team budget.

A minimum donation of \$500 per team member is required within 15 days of acceptance.

Team funds cover flights, ground transportation, meals, accommodations, ministry expenses, and team activities.

Team members will need to bring funds with them to cover airport meals, souvenirs, and incidental expenses (approximately \$250 CAD).

At the end of the trip, any surplus team funds will be donated to ERDO designated for CCP Thailand Programs.

Team Meetings

The team will meet at least once in the spring once all team members are finalized, and several times over the course of fall of 2026.

We will do our best to find a convenient time for all team members to attend, either in person (preferred) or online.

The pre-departure meeting will take place on the afternoon of Sunday January 17, 2027.

Travel and Accommodations

The tentative plan is to fly into Chiang Mai from Edmonton, connecting in Vancouver and Singapore. With the time change and flight times, we will arrive 2 days after departure (total trip is about 30 hours).

We will be staying in hotel or 'hotel style' accommodations in Thailand. Most ground travel will be in a 12 passenger van (with 11 seats occupied). Expect about 2 hours of driving per day.

About midway through the trip, we will travel to Bangkok from Chiang Mai either by plane or overnight train (with sleeping berths).

We will fly out of Bangkok to Edmonton, connecting in Vancouver, and with the time change arrive later the same day.

Safety and Security

The areas we are visiting (Bangkok, Chiang Mai and surrounding rural areas) are considered generally safe for travel. Local staff will give instructions to maintain personal safety.

Team members should review the government [travel advisories for Thailand](#) before applying.

Climate

We will be visiting Thailand during its cool season and typically the weather is warm, dry, and generally pleasant. Bangkok will feel hot during the day (around 30–34°C) with warm evenings. Chiang Mai is slightly cooler, with warm daytime temperatures and noticeably cooler mornings and nights that may call for a light jacket. Rain is unlikely in either city.

Insurance

Team members are responsible for arranging emergency travel health coverage and ensuring they meet any conditions of the plan, including pre-existing condition clauses. Evidence of coverage and contact information in the event of a medical emergency will be required prior to departure.

As team members are not directly paying for flights or accommodation, many credit card policies do not provide coverage.

Trip Cancellation Insurance is not required and as the church is the actual payer for travel and accommodation and you would not be eligible for any refund.

Team Communication

Team members must have a personal mobile phone and WhatsApp for team communication leading up to the trip as well as during the trip. Team members should either purchase an eSim or be prepared to pay their carrier's roaming charges.

Passports and Visas

Team members who are Canadian citizens require a valid Canadian passport that expires more than six months after travel (an expiry date of August 1, 2027 or later). Team members are expected to apply and pay for a passport themselves.

Team members who are citizens of other countries should check their eligibility to travel to Thailand before applying to be part of the team.

Thailand requires a digital arrival card to be completed online before arrival.

Vaccinations

Hope City Church requires you are current on your tetanus vaccine as a condition of participation, and you will need to provide the date of your most recent vaccination. We recommend you consult with a travel clinic at least six months prior to the trip to verify you have the required vaccines for travel to Thailand based on your medical history, and any costs for those will be your responsibility.

Allergies and Dietary Restrictions

Applicants with allergies or food intolerances must notify team leaders in advance of applying to investigate the possibility to accommodate allergies and other dietary needs. Depending on the type and severity of the allergy or intolerance it may not be possible to participate on the trip.

How to Apply

Applications are made online at <https://gohc.ca/Thailand2027>. The online form must be completed using the applicant's hopecity.ca account.

If you have any questions that would affect your decision of whether or not to go, please ask them before applying.

Spots on this team are limited due to the constraints of ground transportation. Applicants will be assessed and accepted based on the needs of the team at the church's sole discretion.

If accepted, we require you to sign the International Trip Participation Agreement within 3 days of acceptance.

Important Information Regarding International Humanitarian Travel

When volunteering to travel and serve as part of a Hope City Church team, individuals are responsible for understanding the risks and considering the implications for them and their family. They must assume those risks, meaning they will not hold the church responsible for any loss connected to their participation.

All international travel involves risks. Participation in missions and humanitarian work carries different and greater risks than tourist travel. Travellers will not have access to the same protection, security, and health services as in Canada or other international tourist destinations.

Each country has a unique legal system, specific safety and security conditions and potential health hazards. Team members are expected to read the travel advice published by the Government of Canada (<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>) at the time they commit to the trip and again immediately before travel.

Countries make their own decisions about who they will allow to enter and leave the country. Team members are responsible for meeting the entry requirements for the countries they are visiting or transiting through, including obtaining any required visas.

Transportation, including air and ground travel, is provided by companies that are registered in different countries and are governed by different safety and liability regulations than Canadian companies.

Changes to the planned itinerary may be required due to schedule changes, natural disasters, security concerns, and other reasons. Changes may involve alternate carriers and providers and may include stops in countries other than those on the original itinerary.

The activities of the team may include projects where the equipment, safety standards and oversight are different than those in Canada. Team members assume greater risks than they would in Canada and are responsible for assessing the safety risks and taking appropriate precautions.

The church is not qualified to assess personal health risks. Team members are responsible for consulting with their physician and a travel health professional before travel and obtaining recommended vaccines and personal medications.

In the event of injury, disease or other medical emergency, the emergency medical care will be different than what is available in Canada. Team members are responsible for arranging health insurance to cover emergency medical needs for the duration of the trip. Team members must understand the coverage and limits of the policy, including any limitations on coverage and will

confirm with the insurance carrier if there are any questions, including coverage for pre-existing conditions.

Individuals who participate on trips are responsible to consider how any injury, disease, loss, or death would impact their financial situation. Team members are responsible for confirming any life, disability or other insurance policies will provide coverage for loss incurred because of the trip.

THAILAND ORIENTATION

ChildCARE Plus (CCP) Thailand

Emergency Response and Development Overseas (ERDO)

ChildCARE Plus (CCP) is ERDO's child sponsorship program. We focus on ensuring that children complete their education, have access to proper nutrition and healthcare, and are connected to a Christian in their community. CCP Thailand works with over 400 children and their families in 20 communities across Thailand. With nearly 30 years of programming in Thailand, CCP remains a highly relational platform for community development.

NAVIGATING THAILAND

WAI

The standard greeting in Thailand is a "wai". Placing the palms of both hands together near the heart, a slight bow of the head is acceptable. It is not a bow from the waist. To show greater respect, a deeper bow or even touching your nose to your finger tips while bowing your head, would be acceptable. The wai is used for hello and goodbye.

TIP: amongst peers and youth, the modern wai often involves holding a mobile phone in your hands / doing a one handed wai.

SHOES

Footwear comes on and off a lot in Thailand. Typically shoes are not worn into homes. You'll often find a shoe rack outside doors or lines of other people's shoes. If you're not sure, check around the door before entering. Putting your shoes nicely together and off to the side is often appreciated.

HEADS AND FEET

There is a view of the head as special and feet as lowly. Touching someone's head is viewed as rude. This can be quite challenging around smaller children who you may be tempted to touch on the head. Conversely, feet are viewed as lowly and so you would never point the bottoms of your feet at someone (especially challenging while sitting on the floor). You would also never raise your feet higher than part of another's person's body (ex: stepping over someone).

DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

Thai culture can be quite modest and romantic displays of affection are muted. In contrast to this, close friends may express platonic feelings through touch so it is not uncommon to see friends touching somehow.

TIPPING

Tipping is not a common practice in Thailand. If you want, you can round up or when the change comes, leave the smaller amounts (coins). Some newer restaurants and coffee shops have begun including service charges in the bill so if you are somewhere newer/nicer, be sure to check your bill if you are considering tipping.

MONEY

Thai Baht (THB) has denominations of 1000, 500, 100, 50, and 20 in bank notes. Each is a different colour. Thailand is in process of updating these bills and so you may find plastic or paper money in circulation. Coins come in 10, 5, 2, 1 and lesser amounts in copper coins.

TIP: bank machines will give 1000 notes, but these are hard to use. Go to a 7-Eleven and buy something small to break the 1000. The smaller copper coins are almost useless and 7-Eleven is one of the only stores that will accept them.

POLITICS AND THE ROYAL FAMILY

Both political happenings and the monarchy are important topics to Thais and there are strong opinions. It is best to avoid discussing the royal family or asking questions about them. A large portion of Thai society reveres the royal family.

TIP: if you drop a coin, do not step on it as the foot is considered dirty and the image of the king is on coins.

ENGAGING WITH PEOPLE YOUNGER AND OLDER

Thailand is a hierarchical society and knowing people's place in society matters to many Thais. Those who are older are often given the title "P" and those who are younger are called "Nong". It can be a fun activity amongst Thais to establish who is P and who is Nong in terms of age order. P and Nong can also refer to social stations despite age. In general, Nong's are expected to defer to P's. This could include Nong's greeting P's first or offering preference to those who are P.

TEMPLES

As a majority Buddhist country, you will find temples in most communities across the country. More popular temples may charge an admission price and foreigners are often expected to pay a higher fee. Modest clothing with shoulders and knees covered is best for everyone. While walking around temple complexes, you may notice people remove their shoes before entering certain shrines (buildings). Please do the same. When entering, step over the threshold / doorway as it is considered bad luck / disrespectful to step on the threshold. Temples are an active place of worship so be respectful.

IN PUBLIC

Thais are generally soft spoken and do not yell. Be mindful of how loud you are, especially when in a group. Pointing with your index finger is considered rude and so it is best to gesture with your entire open hand.

THAI FLAG AS A SYMBOL FOR THAILAND

The national flag of Thailand is two red horizontal lines, with two white lines inside those, and a blue line in the middle. The red represents the people and the land. The white represents religion. The blue represents the monarchy. As such, nation-religion-king is a common motto for Thais. The monarchy is at the heart of the nation and it is religion (Buddhism) that connects the royals and the people.

PRACTICAL MATTERS

- don't drink the tap water but you can brush your teeth with it
- the "bum gun" or water is the common method of cleaning after going number two. Toilet paper is used to dry off and not so much to wipe clean.
- toilet paper does not go into the toilet so look for a bin nearby.
- many restrooms will not have toilet paper so best to have a small package of tissues with you. They can be purchased for a few baht as 7 Eleven.
- cars drive on the righthand side so be sure to look both ways when crossing the road.

COUNTING IN THAI

1	Nung	6	Hok
2	Song	7	Jet
3	Sam	8	Bet
4	See	9	Gaaw
5	Ha	10	Sip

BASIC THAI VOCABULARY

GENERAL TIP: men will end sentences in “khrup / krap” and women with “ka” to make it more polite.

- **Hello** – Sa-wa-dee khrup/ka
- **Yes** – Chai (khrup/ka)
- **No** – Mai (khrup/ka)
- **Maybe** – Aaj ja (khrup/ka)
- **Thank you** – khop khun (khrup/ka)
- **Sorry/excuse me** – Kho toad khrup/ka
- **Where is the restroom**– Hong nam yoo tee nai khrup/ka?
- **I don't understand** - Mai kao jai
- **I need a doctor**- Pom (men) / chan (women) dong gaan hai mo maa raak sa khrup/ka
- **No worries**- Mai pen rai
- **Can you speak English?** = Kun pood paasaa anggreet dai mai
- **Not Spicy** – Mai pet
- **A little Spicy**- Pet nit noy
- **Really Spicy** – Pet mak
- **I would like to order food** - Sang aa-haan
- **Delicious**- Aroy
- **That's expensive!** – Paeng mak khrup/ka!
- **How much does this cost?** – Ra ka tao rai khrup/ka?
- **Can you give me a discount please?**– Ga ru na lot ra ka hai noi khrup/ka?
 - informal: Lot day mai?
- **Having fun?** – sanook mai?
- **Turn right** - leo kwa
- **Turn left** - leo sai
- **Go** - Pai
- **Stop** - Jot
- **Slow** - Cha cha
- **Fast** - Rew
- **Here** - Tee-nee
- **There** - Tee-nan
- **Hot** - Ron
- **Cold** - Now
- **A lot** - Mak
- **A little** - Nit noy