

# THAILAND: PATINYA THITATHAN

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## About Patinya

Patinya is a native of Bangkok, Thailand. He and his wife Penjai have been married for over 32 years, and they have two daughters, Penya and Pradittha. In Thailand, there are about 100 churches of Christ with approximately 3,000 believers. Most of the churches are in the northeast part of the country. Patinya spends most of his time visiting, teaching and encouraging the churches in this area. The mission field in Thailand is a stable and constantly growing work. The fact that Patinya and Penjai are Thais makes them especially useful to God because they know the language, the culture, and the people. God has prepared them and given them many experiences that have been useful tools in his work with the Thai people.

## How do you communicate with the people you are trying to reach?

At Ramkhamhaeng University Christian Center (RCC), we have full-time Outreach Ministers who invite university students and neighbors to come to study free English with us. The condition for free English is that they will have to stay with us for an hour of Christian songs, games, and Bible talks.

We make trips every month to work with the churches we have started through our church planting project, Tai for the Savior. Each month, we select two or three churches to visit. We encourage each church to prepare their non-Christian neighbors for us to visit and study in their homes.

## What do you like to do for fun?

I love so much to swim with my wife, but I have to find the time to do it. Also, I like to read a lot.

## How do you see God at work in your ministry?

God has blessed us with ten churches we have established in the past ten years. All of these churches are doing well. They are still small, but growing slowly. Also, God blessed us with the number of people who graduated from our Bangkok Servant Leadership Institute (BSLI). Most of these graduates went home to serve in their churches as self-support workers. I believe the churches in Thailand will do well with this approach.

## What is your future vision for this ministry?

I want to see Tai for the Savior plant more churches around Thailand. I want to see more graduates from BSLI help strengthen their local churches by being self-support workers in the area. I want to see Tai for the Savior team members continue to visit and encourage small churches. At this point, we have adopted seventeen small churches around Thailand. The purpose of all these works is to help churches to be able to stand on their own financially, and to be able to keep reaching out to the lost in their own area. Lastly, my wife and I want to see our daughter and her husband continue to serve in our place in the future. Right now, they are full time students at BSLI.

## What can we do to help?

- First, pray for us.
- Second, continue to support us financially.
- Third, encourage our family. We are working in countries where 99.5% of the people do not share our faith. Yes, we are Thais working in Thailand, but we do not share a thing with them; not our faith, our thoughts, or our value of life. We are completely different from our own people. We need constant communication from you. It gives us much encouragement. In most cases, missionaries have to be the ones who write and communicate.

## CONNECT:

[patinya.thitathan@gmail.com](mailto:patinya.thitathan@gmail.com) | [www.facebook.com/patinya.thitathan](https://www.facebook.com/patinya.thitathan)