

## Driving Without Directions

A friend of mine sent me a note about a silly experience he had recently. Perhaps you can relate. He said, "I got off the plane, got into my rental car, and began driving around a city I thought I knew. After a few blocks of turning this way and that, seeing none of the places I expected to see, I was thinking I might be lost. Another 15 minutes and I was sure.

I called my son, who was expecting me later in the day, and explained my predicament. He asked where I was and I confessed that I had no idea, but assured him that eventually I would find my way out. He said, "Too bad you didn't think to rent a car with GPS."

It was one of those 'duh' moments. My car did come with a portable GPS unit, but it was still in the glove compartment. I hadn't even thought of it. I pulled over, plugged it in, entered the address I was looking for, and within a minute a friendly voice in the little box was directing me to the right place. I actually doubted the directions a couple of times, but it turns out that the GPS knew the way better than me. Eventually I heard the words, "Arriving at destination on left..."



This is a great story with a spiritual truth. It reminds me of what we so often do in life. We think we know how to get where we want to be in life, but we get lost along the way doing things "our way". Then (if you are like me) you make matters worse by trying to self-correct. *I can do it on my own. Leave me alone, I've got it.* We get even more lost and more embarrassed about our situation. All the time we have a place we can go for directions, but for some reason we neglect to look. *Psalm 32:8 puts words in God's mouth, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."*

If you're feeling a little lost in some areas of life, and the turns you take keeping leading you where you don't want to be, stop for a moment, and ask for directions. Let God's Word direct you to the next step you need to take. It might take a leap of faith. You might doubt the directions a bit. You might need to talk what you think God is saying over with a trusted friend to confirm that it's God speaking and that you are understanding, but "*I WILL guide you*" is a promise you can count on.

God Bless



Stewart

### Gotta work on Sunday?

ICB has two Worship Services every Sunday.  
10:00am – Bangkok Christian College  
6.30p – Bangkok Christian Guest house

## PRAYERS REQUEST

- ❖ Pray for people relocating to and from Bangkok during August. Especially for the many newcomers to the city adjusting to new jobs, schools and ways of life. Pray that they find friends among the Christians
- ❖ Pray for those suffering economic hardship, especially those without work or meaningful work.

### PRAYER FOCUS:

Use August to focus on listening to God. When you pray, see if you can spend at least half your prayer time in silence waiting for God to speak to you.

*If you would like a prayer concern to be included in this list please mail to  
<[pastor@icbangkok.org](mailto:pastor@icbangkok.org)>*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Ramkamhaeng, Bangna, Srinakarin Area Group** - This group is regrouping. Please call Francis Carredo (085-145-2845) for details. Planning to meet on Sunday afternoons every other week. It's a family style group.

**Indonesian Women's Study** – Meets for bible study every Tuesday, at Bangkok Gardens, Tower E Condo # 5095, Narathiwas soi 24, New Sathorn. If interested talk to Ansye Rungkat (081-554-9039). This group uses the Indonesian language.

Do you have toddler toys that your children have outgrown or doesn't play with anymore?

The nursery is looking for some Clean, Safe, used toys that are in Good Condition. Toys can be brought on any Sunday or for more information contact Frances Carredo or Caryn Macky.

## AUGUST BIRTH DATES



## Fellowship

### Connect with Fellow ICBERS

Go to the Facebook Group – International Church of Bangkok. Join a small group. Invite someone you are chatting with after worship to join you for lunch.

### !! HELP WANTED !!

Looking for volunteers to help with the children's classes. We work on a rotation schedule so no one person is away from the worship service for very long. If interested or for more information, please contact Caryn Macky or Pastor Stewart

# SERMON SCHEDULE

## GUEST PREACHERS IN AUGUST

Date	Morning	Evening
Aug 9	Suk Prachayaporn	Amy Hupe
Aug 16	Jane Kiriratnitikul	Andrew Dircks
Aug 23	Ash Barker	Pastor Stewart

*August 9 and 16 Pastor Stewart will be taking study leave at the Myanmar Institute of Theology in Yangon. All three of our guest preachers are great preachers. Pastor Stewart will be in church August 23 in the morning but will preach only in the evening service.*

### COVENANTS: A Deeper Understanding of Our Faith

August 30 will kick off a series entitled "Covenants: A Deeper Understanding Of Our Faith". During communion once a month I refer to Jesus' death on the cross as the "new covenant". When I do this I'm quoting Jesus himself. What in the world does this mean? It's very central to our faith. In order to understand the "new" covenant, you have to know something about the old. When you do, it makes all the difference in your clarity about the most important aspects of our faith.

### 5 Stupid Things Smart Christians Believe

Coming in October, this title is taken from a very popular book that exposes some popular belief "myths" that very well-educated, clever, smart people sometimes fall for as they seek to know and love God. While these beliefs are easy to mistake for the 'real' thing, they are ultimately destructive and will leave you hurt and angry.

*Don't miss any of these important sermons.*

\* New service offered. If you (or someone you know) is still learning English and attending our services regularly. Sermons are some of the hardest things to understand in a foreign language. While I generally post my sermons online *after* preaching them, I am willing to make the text available *BEFORE* Sunday to English learners. Reading through ahead of time will help you to learn the vocabulary and follow the spoken word. This option is not a substitute for being physically present on Sunday morning and is only available to non-native English speakers who are struggling to understand the sermons when they are preached. Email me for more information. [pastor@icbangkok.org](mailto:pastor@icbangkok.org)

## Small Group Studies



**NEW GROUP: Spirituality and Culture Group** meets mostly on alternating Thursdays near Nana BTS. Call Betsy (081-919-7627)

or Dan Lewis (081-804-1957) for details.

**Thong Lor Area Group** - The Thong Lor mid-week group. Group break until mid-August. Call Pastor Stewart (081-923-2810) or Ken Mays (081-919-2446) if interested.

**Sala Daeng Bible Study** –At the Bangkok Christian Guest House on Wednesdays @ 7pm. Contact Andrew Dircks (087-689-8618).

**Nichada Group** - Women's fellowship and Bible study meets on Tuesday evenings. Family fellowship dinners on occasion. Contact Caryn Macky for details at [magicrat@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:magicrat@loxinfo.co.th). Group is on break until August.

# KLONG TOEY COMMUNITY CENTER



Rod with Klongtoey kids waiting for kayak

Klong Toey Community Center works with some of Bangkok's most vulnerable residents. The Center, a ministry of the Church of Christ Thailand, ministers to the community through a pre-school, youth group activities, micro-enterprise business development support and grass roots church planting as well as many other day to day activities. It is hard to imagine what life might be like living and/or working in Klong Toey slum. Below is an edited excerpt from a recent article written by Anji Barker about the hope and despair she feels as she works at the community center.

*Feelings of hope and deep despair are experienced by me weekly, living and working here in the slum. Some days I am filled with hope and amazement as I see the way my very poor neighbors pull together to help each other. Other days I am filled with despair as I experience the overwhelming needs and hopelessness. The Klong Toey Handicrafts has been such a journey. It started 3 years ago as way to create fair and meaningful employment for men and women here as an alternative to selling drugs and prostitution. In the last 7 months we turned over about \$100,000 Australian dollars. Thanks to the hard work of our many Australian volunteers. At least half of that was wages and has gone directly into the local economy. The women and men working vary in numbers between 35 and 60 per week.*



Rod in front of his house in Klongtoey Slum

*Two years ago "Lek", was released from prison after a 10 year sentence for drug trafficking. She and, her husband, also just out of jail moved into our soi to live with his mother. After a while young women being released from prison with no family and nowhere to go started ending up at Leks. Thai jails have large shared cells and "Lek" had become a mother figure during her time in there. When "Lek" first came to us for work my sister in-law was able to teach her to sew. "Lek" was able to earn good money and loved the sewing until her aging eyes could not cope any more.*

*It was then that she introduced us to these young women and we offered them sewing work. We set up a room for them with a sewing machine etc. and most of the time there were at least 1 or 2 of these women living in the room as well as sewing bags for the handicrafts.*

*(Once a year the King Of Thailand pardons long term prisoners and we would get some new girls join the group.) Some stayed and continue on, others made good money and then moved on. I was really sensing God's grace as were part of helping newly released prisoners earn a good wage and have an alternative to returning to their life of crime. Over time I noticed "Lek", who by now was making wrist bands, working less and less as I would see her around the place. I heard from other neighbours she had started loaning money to others at really high interest. Eventually I happened to ask someone else the right question and found out that "Lek" had been taking a 40% cut in the wages we had been paying the women. Apparently this is normal, like a "spotters fee". Again I felt despair.*

# Klong Toey Community Center (Continues)

*Here we were thinking that we were creating fair employment and lives were changing, yet those we were helping were then in turn ripping others off. Not the best missionary story to have, but a very important and valuable one. In Thailand this happens everywhere and we must constantly fight against it. It is also a lesson that while we may feel hope at the changes we are seeing in the lives of the women, they may not feel that same hope. Despair can be a hard thing to shake.*

*The longer I live here the more I understand that I don't understand! I live in the slum, yet I can choose to leave. I feel I have rights and feel empowered to fight for better while my neighbors drown in problems from all angles. Christ and His hope are the only true hope. Money is not the answer to poverty people are! Sharing Christ's transforming hope is needed here more than ever.*

*While I celebrate the Handicrafts project and the lives it has changed, I must always remember that there are many layers to the despair that these men and women face while giving them an income is vital, it is just the beginning of a very long road to wholeness. These are just our bumps on the road.*

By Anji Barker



Anji & Ash Barker & Family

Please make a special effort to come to church on 23 August to hear Anji's husband Ash preach and to learn more about this wonderful ministry.



10% of yearly offerings go to our outreach partners. Money placed in the purple pail (or pink "outreach" envelopes) goes 100% to our partner for the month.

In June, the purple pail for Mercy House was 16,220 baht. We estimate the 10% tithe to be 45,416 baht, so we raised approximately 61,636 baht!

## OutReach Opportunities

**Pakkred Babies Group** - Volunteers help feed and play with children (ages 4-10) in the cerebral palsy ward every Tuesday. Contact Mio Foster (086-044-3808) or John Amollo (084-681-7463). One-time volunteers are welcome. Children don't get to go out without a visitor.

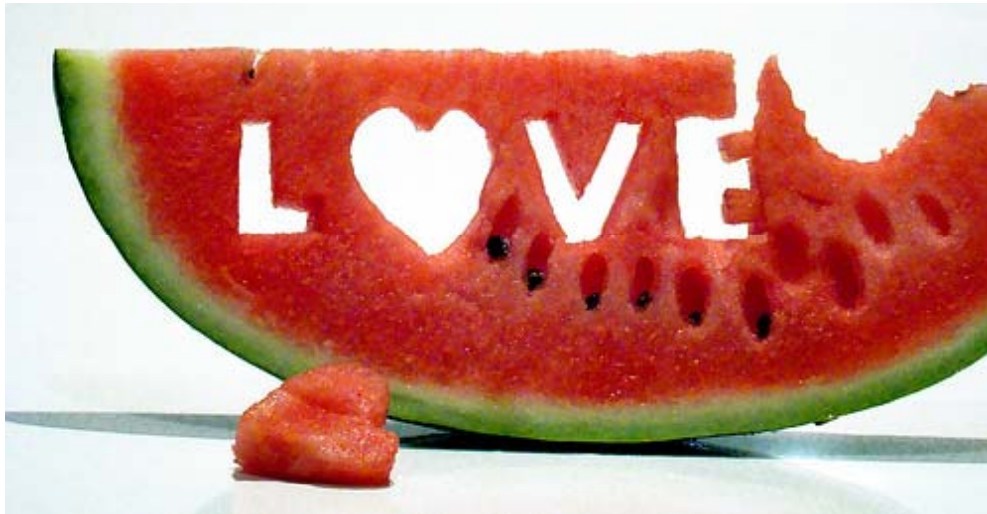
### Rahab Ministries

Rahab Ministries has many volunteer opportunities, including a 1.5 hrs/week commitment teaching English. Contact Pastor Stewart if interested.

# Sunday School News

In the Month of August:

Focus:



Date	Sunday School Teacher In-Charge
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Laura Perry
9 <sup>th</sup>	Caryn Macky
16 <sup>th</sup>	Laura Perry
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday School Kick Off Regular Sunday School Program (3 classes)

## Kids Bible Wordsearch

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

*Resurrection of Jesus Christ*  
Puzzle #3

ALIVE  
ANGEL  
BETRAYED  
BLOOD  
BODY  
CHRIST  
CRUCIFIED  
DISCIPLES  
FEET  
FORSAKEN  
FULFILLED  
GOLGOTHA  
JESUS  
JOY  
JUDAS

C	G	A	T	H	O	R	N	S	A	D	U	J
D	R	O	L	H	X	D	O	O	L	B	K	O
X	F	U	L	F	I	L	L	E	D	D	E	Y
Y	J	Y	C	G	D	R	T	P	I	E	O	R
T	E	E	F	I	O	W	T	S	N	Y	N	A
O	S	B	E	F	F	T	C	Y	I	A	C	M
M	U	R	O	O	O	I	H	M	G	R	T	L
B	S	P	F	R	P	R	E	A	H	T	H	H
N	E	V	I	L	A	T	S	D	T	E	K	C
B	E	N	E	L	A	D	G	A	M	B	B	T
N	O	S	E	L	E	G	N	A	K	S	F	A
U	R	D	I	S	C	O	U	R	G	E	D	W
L	I	P	Y	R	X	R	A	I	M	E	N	T

LORD  
MAGDALENE  
MARY  
NIGHT  
PILATE  
RAIMENT  
RISEN  
ROBE  
SCOURGED  
SOLDIERS  
SON  
THIRTY  
THORNS  
TOMB  
WATCH

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# International Church of Bangkok

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## ICB's SUNDAY SCHEDULE

<i>8.45 am</i>	<i>Choir Practice</i>
<i>9.00 am</i>	<i>Adult Sunday School</i>
<i>10.00 am</i>	<i>Worship</i>
<i>10.30 am</i>	<i>Graded Sunday School (Ages 4 – 12)</i>
<i>11.00 am</i>	<i>Loaves &amp; Fishes Café Fellowship</i>
<i>6.30 pm</i>	<i>Contemporary Evening Worship (@ Bangkok Christian Guest House)</i>

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61/2 Soi Saen Sabai 3  
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Address Correction Requested

**ADVANCING THE WORK OF GOD**

**In July, ICB raised approximately  
61,636 baht for Mercy House**

*Thank You*