

### Where do people go to church?

Occasionally I'll have someone visit my page on Facebook and send me a message to say "You have some *interesting* people on your page." *Interesting* in this case usually means bad, messy and/or imperfect looking. I always wonder how they can tell! But the question on everyone's mind is: why can THEY be friends with a pastor? Do THEY come to your church? What are THEY doing in a church?


I'm glad to be a pastor with friends who look like they wouldn't be in church. (Note: some of the strangest looking people are the most holy.) I'm glad that we are a church where people with messy lives feel free and welcome and can come and hear good news about God. The fact that people are surprised worries me. Where do messy people go if they want to connect with God? Where do the normal people go? I'm talking about the people who aren't perfect; the people who are on their second or third or fourth marriage. The people who are addicted. The people who are sleeping with someone they aren't married to. The people who have gone through bankruptcy or who have been laid-off or fired. You know, those people who are less than perfect, who have not had a long string of unbroken successes. Where do they go to church? Where do they go to connect with God?

In Bangkok – they come to ICB. We are a church defined less by tradition than by mission. We are a church (frankly) defined less by ideology than by mission. We are a church that does not exist for ourselves. We are a church for outsiders. I'm thrilled with that. I want to be the pastor of the church for the outsider. I want to be the pastor of a church where people are loved...all people. I want to be a pastor for those who would love to have a relationship with God but who just can't do the religious thing, who just simply can't measure up to moralism, or demands of the denominational, traditional, religious, you-fill-in-the-blank, life.

As a church our motto is "Advancing the work of Jesus." That means we are focused on the outside. We do that by partnering with organizations all over Thailand working with some of the most vulnerable people in this country. But we also do it by extending grace to one another. I want to connect people to God and each other. And I don't want to check their pedigree at the door when we do it.

I actually enjoy being around imperfect people. Perhaps part of the reason is that I recognize how well I fit in. What kind of church do YOU want to be part of?

God bless,



Stewart

### Can't make it to Church in the Morning?

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



# SERMON SCHEDULE

**Being Christian in BKK:**  
**“Living With Integrity And Influence”**

3 May – A Little Righteousness – Gen 18

10 May – Be Present – Matthew 5:13

17 May – Shine – Matthew 5:14-16

24 May – Shine II – Matthew 5:16

What is our purpose as Christians living & working in Bangkok? How can you fulfill your purpose?

## PRAYERS REQUEST


- For the work of our May outreach partner: Chaiyapark Ministries.
- For peace and justice in the world ‘hotspots’, especially in southern Thailand, Burma.
- For friends, neighbors and family who are ill, troubled, lost or in transition.

### PRAYER FOCUS:

"In May let's focus our prayers on peace for Thailand. There is ongoing violence in the south. There is potential for violence on both the Cambodia and Burmese borders. There is stubborn tension felt between red shirts and yellow shirts throughout the country. Scripture tells us to pray for governments and political leaders. Join in praying for wisdom, humility, creativity, unity and justice."

*If you would like a prayer concern to be included in this list please mail to <pastor@icbangkok.org*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Learn from one of the best Christian communicators of our time. Adult Sunday School with Rob Bell – We’ll be using Rob’s  Videos in a five week Adult Study on Sundays at 9am beginning 26 April and running through 24 May. Go to [www.nooma.com](http://www.nooma.com) for more information.

**3 May – Luggage** – Ever been hurt by another person? We all have and sometimes we carry those hurts around with us like luggage. God can help lighten that load. What are the ins and outs of forgiveness?

**10 May – Dust** – Belief in God is important, but it’s also important to know that God believes in us. What would it mean to believe that God believes in you?

**17 May – Bullhorn** - How do you feel about the bullhorn guy that got all the pamphlets, quoting bible verses about the anger & the wrath of God? Are people like the bullhorn guy hurting the general perception of Christianity?

**24 May – Lump** – Do you have people around you that could never do anything to make you love them less? Is this really how we should feel about all other people?

**Indonesian Language Worship:** Next gathering. Saturday, 16th May, @ Morgan & Vani’s apartment, 6pm - onward, Bangkok Gardens # 4121, Narathiwas 24. If like to join dinner only please come at 7:30pm Contact Ansy Rungkat (081-554-9039)..

Do you have toddler toys that your children has 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.



# NEW BANNERS FOR EASTER

**New Banners Introduced for Easter  
By Avery Udagawa, Worship Committee**

A pair of new banners has been introduced to ICB’s worship space during the season of Easter. The banners frame the altar table and screen during worship.

Like ICB’s altar and pulpit cloths, the new banners were designed by ICB member Tom Larsen and crafted from Thai silk by U-Thong Quilts, producers associated with ThaiCraft, an independent fair trade organization with historic ties to ICB.

Like the altar and pulpit cloths used during Easter, the banners are white, representing purity and joy, and gold, representing the “queen of feasts.” The combination of white and gold emphasizes the status of Easter as the most important day on the church calendar.

The banners feature images such as the sun, symbolizing Christ as the light of the world; the butterfly, which is a symbol for the resurrection; and a depiction of the women finding Christ’s empty tomb. The banners also include the words “Alleluia!” and “Christ is Risen!”

New vertical banners were also introduced at ICB during Advent 2008 and Lent 2009. More new banners—for Pentecost and communion—will be introduced soon.



## Concordia Ministry Report



Concordia Ministry visited us on 26<sup>th</sup> April. 15 children and 6 teachers were they to share their ministry with ICB. We thank you for your participation.

In April, the purple pail for Concordia was 18,800 baht. We estimate the 10% tithe to be 45,416 baht, so we have raised approximately 64,216 baht!

## MAY BIRTH DATES:



## Fellowship

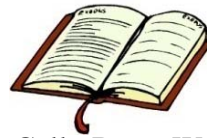
### Connect with Fellow ICBers

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

## Small Group Studies



**Chatujak Book Group** meets alternating Thursdays. At the home of Dan Lewis.

Call : Betsy Walter-Echols (081-9197627) or Dan Lewis (081-804 857) for details & directions.

**Sala Daeng Bible Study** – Meets at the Bangkok Christian Guest House on Wednesdays @ 7pm, & will resume in mid May, contact Andrew Dircks (087-6898618) if interested.

**Nichada Group** - Women's fellowship & Bible study meets on Tuesday evenings. Family fellowship dinners on occasions. Contact Caryn Macky. For details email [magicrat@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:magicrat@loxinfo.co.th).

**UPDATE: Thong Lor Study** – Beginning Thursday 14 May and going through end of June. “New Light on Familiar Passages.” Call Pastor Stewart (081-9232810) if interested.

**Ramkamhaeng, Bangna, Srinakarin Area Group** - This group meets in Ramkhamhaeng near Assumption University on alternating Sundays. Please call Francis Carredo (085-1452845) for details.

**Indonesian Women's Study** – Meets for bible study every Tuesday, at New Sathorn. If interested talk to Ansy Rungkat (081-554-9039). This group uses the Indonesian language.

## OutReach Opportunities

### Pakkred Babies Group

Volunteers help feed and play with children (ages 4-10) who have physical and intellectual disabilities every Tuesday. Contact Mio Foster (086-044-3808).

### Rahab Ministries

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

# May Outreach Partner Chaiyapruk Ministry



## *Chaiyapruk Children’s Home, a Place for the Children That No One Wants....*

In September of 1984, Dr. Cleopundh and Dr. Somsugdi Soorapanthu came home to Thailand with their two sons after twenty years in Germany with a comfortable medical career. Their goal was to try carve out a second chapter of their lives in this land that they remembered so fondly, to see if they could once again live in the Land of Smiles. It wasn’t easy after being gone for so long, but the Lord had a mightier plan for them, far more than they thought was possible, and a return to life in Germany quickly became something of a fleeting thought.

Soon after arrival, they started to read headline news of infants being abandoned on road sides and public parks, and of dead babies floating up the Chaopraya River. It seemed most of the babies were from young, unwed mothers unable, or unwilling, to cope. The long-term care problems were overwhelming for the police and the social services department.



The doctor couple decided something must be done on the situation and soon were led to an American missionary named Arthur Lynch. Together they set up an open home for abandoned children on Soi Chaiyapruk (Sukhumvit Soi 65 today),

hence the name of the Home, and their first infant arrived soon after, disowned by his mother in Chiangmai. A year later, through a lengthy process and hard work, they were able to obtain a government license to set up the non-profit Chaiyapruk Foundation to support Chaiyapruk Children’s Home. (The foundation is also known as the Victory Tree Foundation, Chaiyapruk meaning “Victory Tree” in Thai.)



In the first five years of the operation, the Home was re-located five times in Bangkok, including a two-year shelter with the Church of Christ. Today Chaiyapruk Children’s Home stands in the middle of a vast stretch of fields in Nakorn Nayok Province, 80 kilometers northeast of Bangkok. This piece of land has belonged to Dr. Cleopundh’s family for several generations. It was stated in the will of her great grandparents who were devout Christians that the plot should be reserved for use “to serve God”. And her relatives agreed that this project filled that intention. With the help from their overseas network of friends and

family, the two doctors received enough financial support to have a modest home built for the children on a corner of the property. In 1991, 34 children moved in with three staff members, to a place they could now call “home”.

In this new home, children are taught to take turns doing household chores including their own laundry, and to take care of a vegetable garden. New infants are accepted one at a time so that the older ones can learn to take care of the younger ones. They are all sent to the closest public schools and the older ones are encouraged to achieve the highest level of study possible. (The younger ones used to be sent to a private elementary school until it became impossible financially.) Last year some generous donors in Holland made it possible for them to renovate their dilapidated, leaking kitchen into a new cafeteria with a modern facility for a bakery. The children now take pride in making home-made pizzas and baked goods for sale at churches, fairs, and private functions.



Three times a week, on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, “Auntie Doc -- Pa Mau” and “Uncle Doc -- Lung Mau”, as the two doctors are affectionately called, drive out to spend time with their children, staying well into the evening after the song worship and putting the children to bed. There is a church at a corner of the compound and a guest preacher teaches the children the Word of God on Sundays at 4 p.m., with a communion service weekly.

# May Outreach Partner

## Chaiyapruk Ministry (Continues)

It's been 25 years since Dr. Cleopundh and Dr. Somsugdi first started Chaiyapruk Children's Home. Through Christian principles, love and support, they have helped to raise close to 50 children, many of whom have gone on to become responsible and contributing young adults in the Thai society. Through the work of these two doctors, God gave these potential street children – whose parents rejected them – a second chance for a better life.

Chaiyapruk Children's Home runs on domestic and overseas donations and Dr. Cleopundh's salary. (Dr. Somsugdi has since retired.) Every little bit helps. The two doctors express their deep appreciation that our church has decided to help their children. They hope that our members will have a chance to come visit Chaiyapruk Children's Home one day soon.

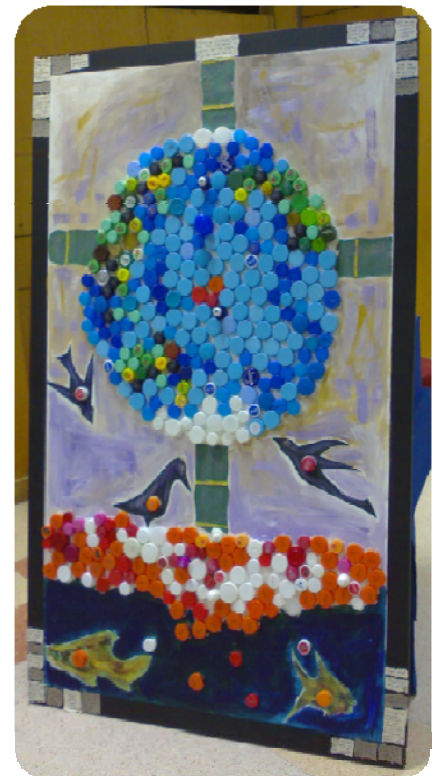
*Our partnership with Chaiyapruk Foundation focuses on helping to contribute to the livelihood of these children with Christian principle, love, care and education at the highest possible levels. 10% of yearly offerings go to our outreach partners. Money placed in the purple pail (or pink "outreach" envelopes) goes 100% to our partner for the month.*

### Earth Day News

For the last several weeks, the ICB Sunday School children have been talking with their families about how they show love for God and others by caring for the earth. On Sunday, April 26, our Earth Day art project was unveiled. Mr. Tom Larsen had used plastic bottle tops (that the children had collected) to create a picture of our earth. The picture showed how the plastic garbage floating in the ocean harms birds and sea animals.

Framing the piece were the children's ideas of how to care for the earth. Here are some of the ideas the children and their families submitted.

- ✓ Take the BTS instead of driving to school
- ✓ Collect water in the sink and shower and use it to water plants
- ✓ Recycle: paper, plastic, glass, cans, cardboard
- ✓ Plant trees.
- ✓ Use both sides of a piece of paper
- ✓ Turn off the computer and TV and play outside
- ✓ Buy locally grown fruits and vegetables instead of imported produce
- ✓ Reduce consumption of red meat
- ✓ Turn off the air-conditioner and use a fan
- ✓ Use public transportation instead of a private vehicle to reduce use of gasoline
- ✓ Ride your bike or scooter instead of taking the car
- ✓ Pick up garbage
- ✓ Turn off lights and air-con when you leave a room.
- ✓ Dry clothes on the line instead of in the dryer



The art piece will be on display near the top of the stairs above the bulletin recycling basket. We hope you will take some time over the next few weeks to read the ideas posted there and consider how your family can become better stewards of the earth God has created to sustain us all.

*There is plenty of space to add more ideas. E-mail ideas to [carynm@isb.ac.th](mailto:carynm@isb.ac.th) and Caryn will add them to the project.*

# Sunday School News

## In the Month of May:

### Virtue:

Obedience—trusting those who lead you by doing what you’re asked to do.

### Memorize Verse:

“Obey your leaders. Put yourselves under their authority. They keep watch over you. They know they are accountable to God for everything they do.” Hebrews 13:17, NIRV

## Sunday, May 3

Nursery care for children under 3

Large group activity for children ages 3-8

## Sunday, May 17

Ages 3-5 Joy or Valerie

Ages 6-8 Charm

Ages 9-12 Rachel

### Sleepless in the Temple

Bible Story: Sleepless in the Temple  
(The Lord calls Samuel)

• 1 Samuel 3:1-19

Bottom Line: Obeying your leaders can help you know God.



## Sunday, May 10

Ages 3-5 - Joy or Valerie

Ages 6-8 Caryn

Ages 9-12 Francis

### House Rules

Bible Story: House Rules  
(Children, obey your parents)

• Ephesians 6:1-3

Bottom Line: How I obey my parents shows what I think about God.



## Sunday, May 24

Ages 3-5 Joy or Valerie

Ages 6-8 Charm

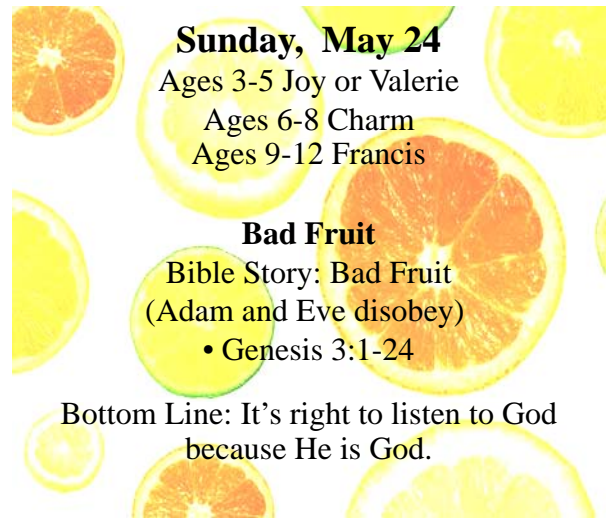
Ages 9-12 Francis

### Bad Fruit

Bible Story: Bad Fruit  
(Adam and Eve disobey)

• Genesis 3:1-24

Bottom Line: It’s right to listen to God because He is God.



# DANGER

## Sunday, May 31

Ages 3-5 Joy or Valerie

Ages 6-8 Charm

Ages 9-12 Rachel

### Danger Zone

Bible Story: The wise and foolish builders • Matthew 7:24-29

Bottom Line: How can you know what to do if you don’t know what God says?





Q: What's the ICB vision?

A: The vision of ICB is on the back of the bulletin each week and a shortened form is on the "welcome" screen each Sunday. In short we are all about "advancing the work of Jesus".

The longer version is we "are an English language congregation (composed of both native and non-native speakers) committed to welcoming people with diverse backgrounds to Christian worship in a diverse, inclusive and unifying faith experience. We seek to advance the work of Jesus Christ by promoting and supporting spiritual growth, community and service to others".

This might not sound like much but it is meaningful and does accurately capture what we are about. Our commonality (besides being Christian) is the English language. We speak it with differing levels of ease and we are committed to being a good place for people at all levels of English study.

We try to be a place where people from a variety of Christian backgrounds, styles and ideologies can come together and worship in a unified and inclusive environment. That means that on any given Sunday seated on your right might be a liberal Pentecostal and on your left might be a conservative Quaker. It happens. No one gets worship exactly like it was at home and we are all richer for it.

We are a church that encourages spiritual growth (Worship, Bible study, prayer). We encourage community (small groups, fellowships, occasional outings, lunches, etc...) and we encourage service to others (in church and in the community through outreach partners, in our work places and a whole host of other opportunities in Bangkok and around the world).

At ICB I think it's fair to say we emphasis unity in essentials with a wide acceptance and celebration of diversity on non-essentials. We try to be a place of hope and good news for the mature Christian, for the just-beginning Christian, for the Christian who is coming back to church after an absence, for people who are not sure they are Christian, for seekers and for non-Christians who choose to be part of our community despite not being Christian at all. We want all these types of people to experience good news about God at ICB in a non-judgmental, joyful, relaxed atmosphere.

*Email Questions for Pastor Stewart. You can ask about the Bible, the Church, why we do something the way we do and we will try to get an answer. Send questions to : [pastor@icbangkok.org](mailto:pastor@icbangkok.org) or [ckdarrell@ymail.com](mailto:ckdarrell@ymail.com)*



# International Church of Bangkok

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## ICB's SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

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Address Correction Requested

In April, ICB raised approximately  
64,216 baht for the  
Concordia Ministries.

*Thank You*