

Support for Takuapa women evangelists



Clockwise from left: Pastor Srigakarn's wife; evangelist Aporn and her daughter; students enjoying the humour of the photographer. See pages 22-23 for more about this and other mission grants.



Lutheran Women's Missionary League—Canada accepted a project to support the work of two women evangelists of the Takuapa Sahatay Lutheran Church in the Phang Nga district of Thailand. This project has been a great success.

The women, Aporn and Sugunya, have worked together to support and carry out evangelism among children and women in the province. They have had Bible classes for children and adults in three different communities every week on separate days. One day they worked in Thung Maphrao, another in Khok Kloi and another in Grassom. They visited with the parents of the children they were teaching and spoke to them about the same God of mercy and love that their children were learning about every week. They often visited the marketplaces to speak of their Lord, Jesus, to the women who were selling their produce and to many families who came to buy food for the week.

Both of them supported the work of the church by preparing the church

building for worship. They were the hosts for the fellowship after the services. Before or after the services, they had Sunday school with the children who came early to the church. At all times they have witnessed their love for the women and children of the province. In Grassom, they have consistently taught 20 to 30 children each Saturday. In Thung Maphrao, they have had from 10 to 20 children and five to seven adults attend their Bible classes each week. There are about 15 women and children in Khok Kloi who have been taught by these dedicated women.

The support of LWMLC has been very significant because it has enabled these special workers to provide material for classes, food for snacks and some transportation for the students and themselves as well.

However, as can be understood, situations change in that part of the world and sometimes rather rapidly. Sugunya has married. While this might be a simple thing for us, it has many ramifications for those living there,

especially if your husband is not a Christian. She has married a Buddhist man and he does not agree to her participating in the work she has done before. Now she has become the recipient of the encouragement and counsel of the church herself. Aporn has completed her studies and has been approved for commissioning as a deaconess of Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church. This brings with it a different set of responsibilities. Even though she will be doing the work of an evangelist she will have additional work as a deaconess.

The support of LWMLC has been invaluable and the current grant will be completed at the end of 2011. The needs of the church in Thailand have changed but the heart of the women of Lutheran Church—Canada has not. The church will always expect and receive the heartfelt care and support of LWMLC for its work of sharing the beautiful Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Rev. Dr. Leonard Harms

Mini Mite Challenge

Celebrate our mission in Thailand by making this delicious Thai soup for lunch

or a light supper. Donate the cost of the ingredients...approximately \$12.50...

to your Mite Box along with your usual coins.

Easy Thai Green Curry Soup with Shrimp (makes 4 large servings)

1 tbsp vegetable oil
1 sweet red pepper, seeded and chopped
2 tbsp Thai green curry paste
2 cloves garlic, minced
4 cups low-sodium chicken stock
1 can (14 oz.) unsweetened coconut milk
1 can (14 oz.) whole baby corn, drained
1 tbsp each, fish sauce and soy sauce
½ lb large shrimp, thawed, peeled and deveined
3 cups finely shredded bok choy
1/3 cup finely chopped cilantro
2 green onions, thinly sliced
1 tsp grated lime zest
2 tbsp lime juice
1 tbsp packed brown sugar

In a large pot, heat oil over medium heat and add red pepper.

Cook, stirring occasionally, for 3 to 5 minutes until tender-crisp. Stir in curry paste and garlic.

Cook, stirring, for 30 seconds.

Add stock, coconut milk, corn, fish and soy sauces.

Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer, uncovered for 3 minutes for flavours to blend.

Add shrimp and bok choy.

Simmer for 2 minutes, until the shrimp are pink and firm and bok choy is tender-crisp.

Stir in cilantro and green onions, lime zest, juice and sugar.

Taste and add more soy if necessary.

Ladle into warm soup bowls.

Note: To give this mild, fragrant soup more of a kick, add ¼ to ½ tsp hot-pepper flakes along with the curry paste.

Donna Schmuland, Christian Mission



Mission—Mini Bible Study #4

Women of Faith

I've been thinking of our women evangelists in Thailand. They work under the supervision of the local missionary, visiting the homes of women and children in remote villages in the district of Phang-Nga, where they develop Christian relationships with the people. They conduct classes for children and support meetings for women. They make sure the physical needs of the people are met as the missionary meets the spiritual needs of the families.

God is using these faithful women as he has used women in the past, as witnesses to His glory. Over the centuries God has used women in many ways. Let's look at just a few of these.

Esther risked her life to protect the Jewish people. Esther 8: 11-13

Dorcus (Tabitha) served the sick and poor. Her hands were always busy, and her heart was always open and full of compassion. Acts 9:36

Eunice and Lois loved their Lord and were true teachers of the Word, passing on their faith to young Timothy. 2 Timothy 1:5

Ruth left her family and country to travel with Naomi to a foreign land. There she helped to support her mother-in-law. God cared for Ruth and Naomi. Through Ruth's marriage to Boaz, her son Obed was the father of Jesse, the father of David who was an ancestor of Jesus. Ruth 1: 8-18

These women of the past join with all the faithful women of today in service

Studies #1 and #2 were published in the Fall 2010 and Winter 2010 issues respectively.

to God. They give of themselves to serve with the strength and joy God gives them. At times the path God chooses for them is difficult but with a strong faith and the guidance of the Holy Spirit all things are possible.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, give strength and courage to all whom You call to be witnesses of the faith. May the acts of kindness they do and words of faith they speak work in the hearts of all they touch to bring many people to faith in You. Father, when You should choose to lead one of us to answer Your call, may we be strengthened by the examples set by all the women of God who have gone before. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Donna Schmuland, Christian Mission