

I'm reminded of a song we used to sing in Sabbath School when I was little. It went something like this:

Five lit-tle mis-sion-ar-ies wish-ing there were more
One went away and then there were four

Mis-sion-ar-y, mis-sion-ar-y, say good-bye
Mis-sion-ar-y, mis-sion-ar-y, say good-bye

Four little missionaries happy as can be
One went away and then there were three...



The song continues all the way up to the last missionary that leaves. On Sunday the 7th of February we said goodbye to seven missionaries who left for the mission field. We are very excited about our group of missionaries that left South Africa to go and spread the Good News in countries where the light of truth is not shining as brightly as here. Even though seven of our missionaries left there is still one that stayed behind. Annelie Heart¹ needs to complete her fundraising before she can launch as a missionary to the Tai-Kadai¹, which is in a "Creative Access Country"². This newsletter includes a feature on the Tai-Kadai where Annelie will be serving as well as a letter from Annelie herself.

I invite you to join us in praying for the Lord to work through the seven missionaries in a mighty way. And let us not forget the one who stayed behind. We pray that if it is the Lord's will, she too may soon leave to proclaim the good news of a crucified and risen Saviour.

¹ Pseudonyms used

²A "Creative Access Country" is a country where missionaries are not allowed to go in an open manner. As a result, they often go as tentmakers, which means they have a secular job in that country in order to have access to the people to share the Gospel with them. The term "tentmaker" comes from the Bible where Paul was literally a tent maker on the one hand and an evangelist on the other.

In many creative access countries, security risks are high and therefore we cannot always post the names or pictures of our people working in those countries. If you want more information about our people working in such countries, you are welcome to contact our office.



Tai-Kadai

STAGE

Pre-entry

Pre evangelism

Evangelism

Discipleship

Phase out

Completed

AFM missionaries have been ministering to the Tai-Kadai people since July 2001

About the People

At one time, the Tai-Kadai* people had their own Kingdom. During the 19th century they were captured by a neighboring country and about half their population was relocated. In the 20th century, their land became some of the most heavily bombed real estate on the planet.

Today the Tai-Kadai number about 111,000 in Southeast Asia.

The Tai-Kadai are Buddhist, but they are also heavily influenced by animism. They believe in "guardian spirits" and "locality spirits," which are identified with different levels of society. They believe that one must please these spirits in order to avoid curses and receive blessings.

The Tai-Kadai work as farmers in higher elevations using terraces. Some also use slash and burn techniques. The rice they grow is of the wet rice variety. Along roads they are also blacksmiths, merchants, businessmen, skilled workers and civil servants. Wealthier Tai-Kadai live in sturdy, teak or mahogany paneled houses that are raised off the ground and have a plank floor and tile roof. Less wealthy live in low-pitched, bamboo-framed houses with thatched roofs and earthen floors. The basic social unit is the family. While they are patriarchal there is almost no division of labor by sex. They are hardworking and habitually save things for future use.

The Tai-Kadai people are also renowned for their silk weaving. They are responsible for inspiring their captors (the Queen of Thailand) with a renewed interest in traditional silk weaving.

Social life includes "merit-making" ceremonies, ordinations of monks, marriages, and housewarmings. The ideal family size is to have five children: a daughter first (to help mother), then three boys to work and be monks, then another girl. It is a great honor for the eldest to become a monk, which is believed to better the family positions.

The Tai-Kadai currently do not have any portion of the Bible translated into their language.

Asian food is very diverse. However, curries are very important to Southeast Asian cuisines. Rice is a staple starch to people in this area, but they also eat a variety of leavened and unleavened breads and egg noodles. Garlic, ginger and chili peppers are common spices. Seafood and other meats are a big part of their diet as well.

About the Project

Adventist Frontier Missions has several projects in Southeast Asia. This part of the world is as diverse in people as it is in landscape. This region has seen many wars, not only in this century, but in centuries past.

AFM is actively working to reach the unreached people groups in this area. One of the primary strongholds of Buddhism today, Southeast Asia is truly a mission frontier.

Due to the sensitive nature of this project and the fact that the country in which we are operating is unfriendly toward evangelism, most of the information we share is general. If you are interested in serving as a missionary with the Tai-Kadai, please contact our recruiter who will give you more specific information.



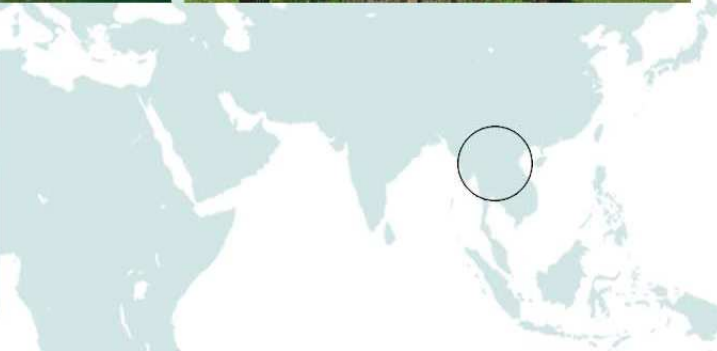
*pseudonym

Sources

- Joshua Project

People-Group Facts

- Population: 111,000
- Language: 8 distinct languages
- Trade language: Undisclosed
- Religion: Buddhism



Be My heart, My hands, My voice...

Isaiah 6:8.. "Here am I Lord, send me..."

There is a song that Selah sings that touched my heart one very special day in October 2015...The day I decided to leave my country, my people, my father's household and to GO to a land that God would show me, to work as a Student Missionary.

I quote a few lines:

He said come, anyone who wants must deny himself, take up his cross, follow Me, no matter the cost.

Be My heart, My hands, My voice...

Then the song continues to ask:How are we living for Christ?

"1 Timothy 4:12 Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."

It is my heart's desire to work for Jesus. Reaching out to people, building relationships and trust, requires time and effort. I am humbly willing to be used by God. It is my prayer that He fills me with love and compassion for all people, giving me a renewal of my heart and mind, to be used as His vessel of mercy.

And further in the song, the encouraging promise:

God gives the strength that it takes, and He knows the price that you pay. The life you have been called to, will not be in vain, so don't be afraid, do not be afraid...

"1 Corinthians 15:58 ...stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."

You too can be a part of this transforming work, by supporting me on my journey and GIVING so I might GO and be an ambassador of Christ. Let's be ...

His Heart, His Hands and His Voice.

Annelie Heart

R10 000

Another R5 000 per month needed.

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First National bank - AFM (SA) trust

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Cheque

Reference: Name of missionary