



Most of Thailand consists of a central lowland plateau, through which runs the Chao Phrya River. This provides important transportation for much of Thailand and has lots of boats busily moving and selling goods or carrying passengers in crowded ferries. It passes through Bangkok to open into the Gulf of Thailand, and because of the many canals that pass throughout the city, Bangkok is known as

the "Venice of Asia." Even the government buildings are housed inside the beautiful Grand Palace, with its white walls and golden roofs that make it look like a castle.

But sadly even in this beautiful city, life is not perfect! There is terrible pollution in Bangkok, and the city has recently become famous around the world as a place where even children are horribly abused and used as slaves. There are so many people in Thailand that desperately need to hear the Gospel and learn that Jesus loves them and cares about them. Let's pray that God will send many Christians from the West, like my young friend Deb Holonitch, who recently went to be a missionary there and kindly sent us a lot of this information.

Look up these bible verses to find key words that are mentioned in this PAL page! (Or get someone to read them to you)

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|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Psalm 19:10 _____ | 2. Mark 11:15 _____ |
| 3. Isaiah 66:12 _____ | 4. Proverbs 29:4 _____ |
| 5. Philippians 4:6 _____ | 6. Luke 18:16 _____ |

We have SO much to be thankful for in this Thanksgiving season, so let's remember to thank God too!

'Til next time,

Your friend, Shirley

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(Answers: 1. gold; 2. temple; 3. river; 4. king; 5. pray(er); 6. children.)

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Fun facts for kids!  True stories!
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Did you know there's a country in which EVERYONE wears a yellow shirt on Mondays?

It's true! That country is THAILAND! Thailand is ruled by King Bumiphol, who has been on the throne for 60 years! This year is a very special year when everyone in that country is celebrating his anniversary or jubilee. In Thailand each day of the week has a special color. Because

King Bumiphol was born on a Monday, which has the color yellow, every Monday this year all the Thai people wear yellow shirts to honor their king!!

Thailand is found in Southeast Asia and shares borders with the neighboring countries of Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, and Burma (now called Myanmar) It has an area of almost 200,000 sq miles and is slightly larger than the United Kingdom. Its capital is Bangkok, which is a sprawling mass of neighborhoods and is actually the largest city in that region of the world.



The Thai flag has 5 horizontal stripes - in the order: red, white, royal blue, white and red.

When France and Britain colonized SE Asia centuries ago, Thailand remained independent under its own king. It was known as Siam, which



is a Chinese word meaning "golden yellow". It was given this name because of the many thousands of beautiful gold-covered temples and shrines that are found all around the

country. These have been built for the people to worship Buddha and many other spirits. 96% of the people of Thailand are Buddhists, and many monks, wearing yellow or orange robes, are found everywhere, often begging or sitting at prayer wheels. The towns and cities have literally hundreds of beautiful domes and towers that gleam brightly in the sun; and everywhere there are smaller, decorated "spirit houses" alongside roads and pathways. As people pass by, they bow in respect to the spirits that they believe live inside these spirit houses!



There are even spirit houses and shrines in the schools, and students and teachers can light candles or incense, and leave gifts of coke, snacks and other foods for the spirits! They believe that the gifts will keep the spirits happy and give them luck to pass an exam or win a soccer game!



All schools in Thailand have school uniforms that are the same. Students wear white shirts and then the color of their shorts or skirts depends on their level of school.

In kindergarten children wear RED shorts.

In primary school children wear BROWN shorts or skirts

In high school children wear BLUE shorts or skirts.



What color shorts would YOU have to wear to school in Thailand?

In Thailand every morning school starts with school assembly and Buddhist prayers, and many school customs are influenced by Buddhism, so it is very difficult for Christian children there.

Schools throughout the country close down for the whole month of October each year, as this is the time of year when the rice is harvested. Many Thai families live on small farms, and since rice is the main crop grown in Thailand, even the children have to help to work in the fields (or rice paddies) in order to harvest this very important food. Rice is eaten every day, and often at EVERY meal, even breakfast. In fact the word for breakfast, lunch or dinner is the same in the Thai language - and it simply means "eat rice"!!



True story! "Chain" is a teenager studying at university in Thailand, who grew up in a Buddhist home but with a strong Catholic influence. In high school he began to feel that something was missing in his life - that he really had a need to be loved. He likes to study and speak English, so when he heard of an English quiz to be held at a local church, he was eager to go. After the game, the pastor shared about the love of God and the salvation offered by Jesus Christ. Immediately Chain knew this was the love he had been looking for, and decided to follow Jesus. Now Chain has become involved with a Christian organization called YWAM (Youth with a Mission) and he wants to go to other countries to tell people of God's love. He recently was able to make his first mission trip to Vietnam, and now he is seeking the Lord's guidance as to what he should do in the future to share the Gospel with others. Let's pray that Chain continues to want to serve God and share the Gospel in other countries.

Like Chain, you might one day get to visit another country to share the Gospel, but don't forget there are also many people from other countries and other religions that come here to the United States! We can start right NOW by being friendly to foreign students and getting to know people who have come here from other countries.

In fact, each year now Thailand receives many tourists and visitors from other countries who especially come to see the magnificent architecture of the golden temples and shrines, or visit the beautiful tropical beaches along the Gulf of Thailand.