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**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**2023**

BANGKOK, THAILAND



**AND HOW CAN ANYONE PREACH UNLESS  
THEY ARE SENT? AS IT IS WRITTEN,  
"HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF  
THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS!"**

ROMANS 10:15

## **LETTER FROM THE MILLERS**

It is hard to believe, but we are now completing our eighth year on the mission field. This year, more than any other, has been a year of transition. In the first half of 2023, Matt began to serve in a greater capacity with Lifesong for Orphans, the missions organization that supports Construction of Hope and also an orphanage in Cambodia. He traveled to Cambodia to meet the ministry leaders and the children whom they serve. Bobbi Jo, meanwhile, continued to teach Cambodian children here in Bangkok.

After returning from the States in August, Bobbi Jo transitioned to being a kindergarten teacher at International Community School, the school that Jude and Lexi attend. In this role, she has had the opportunity to help children in Buddhist families construct a biblical worldview. Matt, meanwhile, has continued to teach and preach at Tairomprakhun Church and to serve Cambodian children both here in Bangkok and also in the rural village of Takeo, Cambodia.

As we do every year, we will give you a glimpse of the ministry we're engaged in, the people we serve, and the ways that God used us to change lives.

Love,  
Matt, Bobbi Jo, Lexi, and Jude

## PREACHING AND TEACHING AT TAIROMPRAKHUN

Matt continues to preach and teach at Tairomprakhun Church in Bangkok. Matt teaches on Thursday evenings, Saturday evenings, and Sunday mornings. He typically teaches verse by verse through books of the Bible and his teachings are live-streamed on both Facebook and Youtube so that Tairomprakhun's seven daughter churches throughout Thailand can learn.

Not only is Matt humbled by the opportunity to edify believers across Thailand through his preaching and teaching, but he also is grateful for the opportunity to proclaim to gospel to non-believers when the church hosts special outreach services.





Each pin represents one of Tairomprakhun's eight churches. As you can see, Matt's teachings are reaching people in northern Thailand, as well as people living on the borders of Laos and Cambodia. Matt's teachings are therefore helping to equip the saints for the work of ministry both inside and outside of Thailand. These believers do outreach both in their own communities and across the border.



For the better part of 2023, Matt has been teaching through just four books: Psalms, Daniel, the Gospel of John, and Jeremiah. Matt feels incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to study and share God’s Word week after week with believers who yearn to know God and His Word more and more and to worship and obey Him. On occasion, Matt also gets to share the gospel with Buddhists who have never heard the gospel before.

## SERVING WITH PONGPAN AND TIDARAT

Last year, we told you about Pongpan and Tidarat who serve at Tairomprakhun's largest church plant in Surin, which is on the Thai-Cambodian border. They are a huge encouragement to us personally because they frequently send Matt their notes from his sermons and pictures of the church members watching Matt's teachings via Livestream. Moreover, they encourage us through their outreach efforts, particularly to Cambodian people right across the border from them.

In April, our whole family had a chance to serve alongside them in rural Cambodia. We visited two villages where most of the homes had no running water or electricity and had a blast worshipping with them. Matt shared the gospel in both villages and it is an indescribable joy to gather with saints who are so materially poor and yet rich in Christ.



# OUTREACH NEAR THAI-CAMBODIA BORDER



## FALL RETREAT IN KHAO YAI



Our church held a retreat in October and the theme was *Homecoming*. Church members who have not been making it a priority to gather with their local church family since the pandemic were invited, as well as some people who had yet to give their lives to Christ. Matt preached three sermons in two days and some of the people who attended the retreat were baptized a day after the retreat ended!



# FALL RETREAT



# 31 PEOPLE BAPTIZED, THEIR SINS WASHED AWAY!

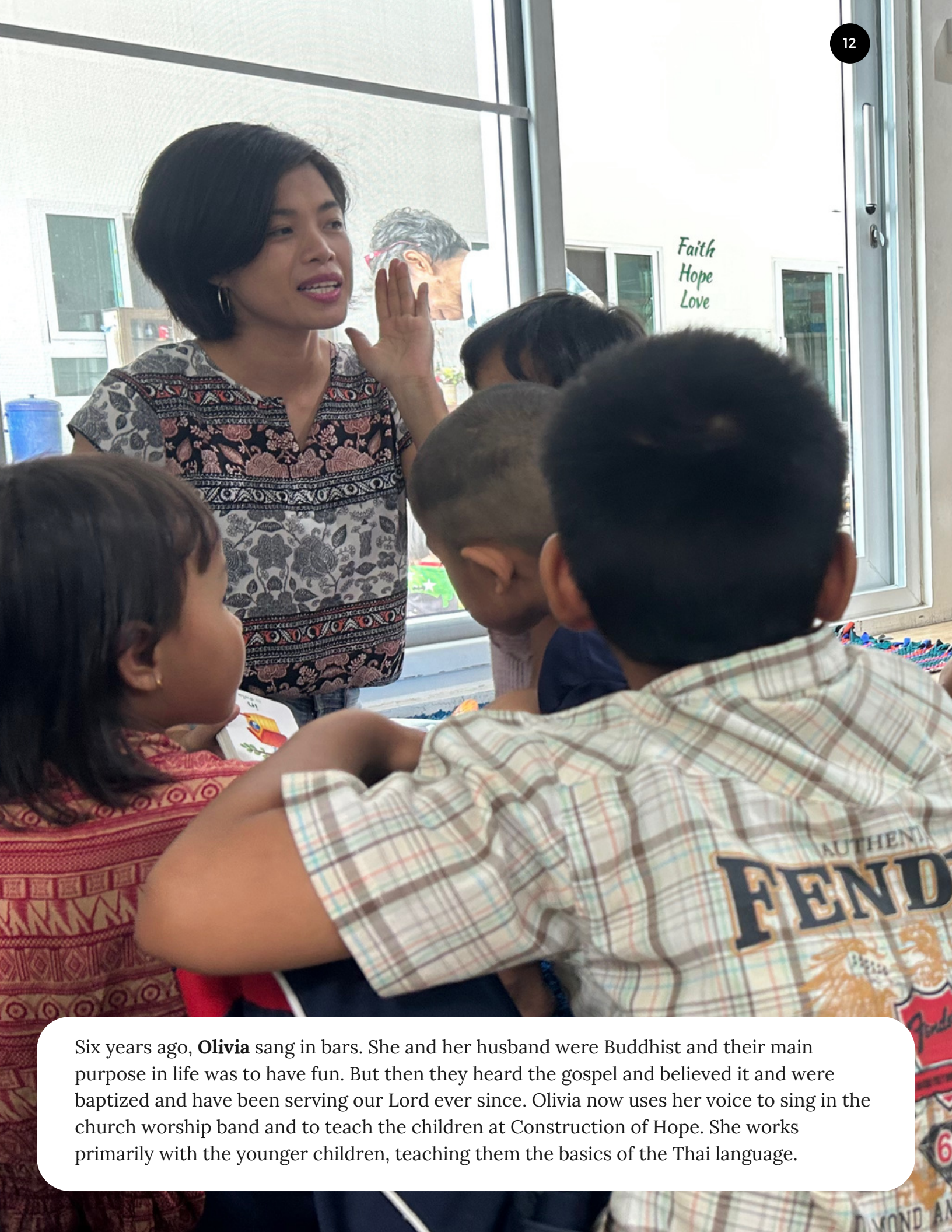


## BOBBI JO TEACHING AT CONSTRUCTION OF HOPE

Up until May, Bobbi Jo taught English to the children at Construction of Hope. She dearly loves these children and they dearly love her. She has had an absolute blast teaching these children for the past five years and her weekly presence at the ministry will be greatly missed. Not only did these children develop better English skills through their time with her, but they also became better people. The latter is true for both Bobbi Jo and her Thai and Cambodian students. They rubbed off on each other. The children became more kind, gracious, patient, and compassionate because of her and she became more faithful, joyful, grateful, and hopeful because of them.

Thankfully, most of the children who remain at Construction of Hope have, for the first time, been able to attend Thai schools. While learning English was certainly valuable, attending Thai schools — which allows them to one day be accepted into Thai universities — will be life-changing for these kids.

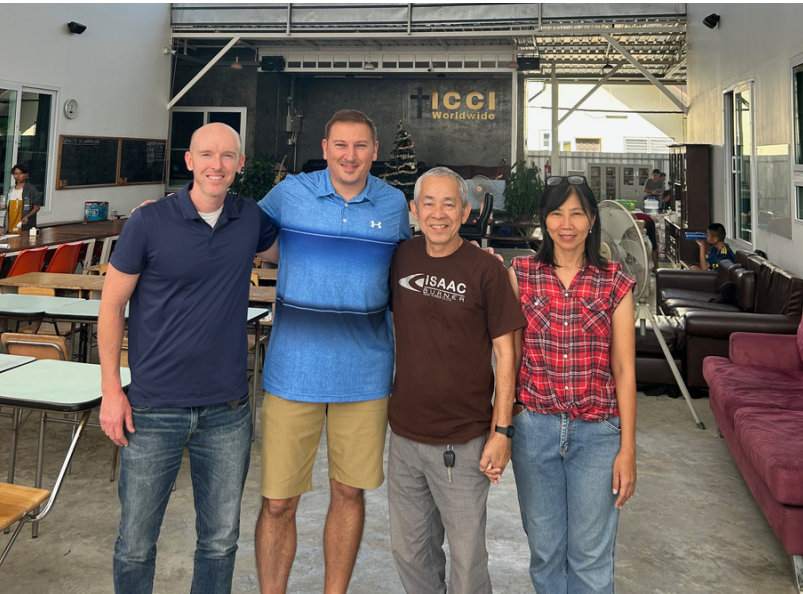




Six years ago, **Olivia** sang in bars. She and her husband were Buddhist and their main purpose in life was to have fun. But then they heard the gospel and believed it and were baptized and have been serving our Lord ever since. Olivia now uses her voice to sing in the church worship band and to teach the children at Construction of Hope. She works primarily with the younger children, teaching them the basics of the Thai language.



**Zack** (in white shirt) is a refugee from Pakistan who has anxiously been waiting for the Canadian government to approve his and his family's immigration. Knowing what it is to be a refugee, he serves the Cambodian children who are very much like refugees. He taught alongside Bobbi Jo and has now become the lead English teacher in her absence. We hope he is able to go to Canada soon, but we love having him serve COH in the meantime.



## MATT SERVING WITH LIFESONG FOR ORPHANS

Lifesong for Orphans is a U.S.-based non-profit that supports Construction of Hope in Bangkok and Home of Hope in Takeo, Cambodia. This year, Matt became the **Program Director** for these two Lifesong projects. In this role, Matt acts as the liaison between Lifesong's home office and the indigenous leaders of their projects here in Southeast Asia.

Matt has traveled to Cambodia five times this year to meet with indigenous leaders in Phnom Penh and Takeo and our family has hosted those same leaders here in Bangkok twice. **Matt is onboarding with Lifesong, meaning that he receives no monetary compensation or benefits. Your financial support is what allows him to partner with this organization in this deeper capacity.**





Children of all ages come to Home of Hope in Takeo, Cambodia, and are provided for both physically and spiritually. At present, Home of Hope is home to over 60 children and the vast majority of them have become Christians. In a country where many children are forced to drop out of school at a young age so they can work and help provide for the family, Home of Hope allows them to continue their education and to keep being kids.



One of our favorite things about Lifesong is that they continue to love, support, and sponsor the children when they grow into adults. Currently, eight young adults who came from Home of Hope are attending college or vocational school and Lifesong pays their full tuition while also providing them a free place to live. Two of the students will graduate in January and one of them has accepted a job with Lifesong!



## BOBBI JO TEACHING AT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Many experts say that children's worldviews are being influenced and shaped the most at four to six years old. Bobbi Jo is now teaching K4 and is humbled by the fact that she gets to instill in her students of various backgrounds a biblical worldview. Below, we have shared a recent note that one parent wrote to Bobbi Jo, concerning her child, Grace:

**“Grace has become very fond of praying this semester. Recently, she comes back almost every day and tells me something about the Lord Jesus. I am very grateful. Grace is grateful. She is willing to pray, and she is also willing to help others.”**



# PICTURES FROM HER FIRST YEAR IN K4



## ON MISSION IN EVERYDAY LIFE: GROWTH GROUPS

For several years, both of us have led Growth Groups, which are after-school life groups for students. Matt leads a group with Jude in it and Bobbi Jo leads a group with Lexi in it. We not only get a chance to teach the Bible to these students, but we also provide a safe space for them to share their feelings, have accountability, think through what they believe, and foster what may become lifelong friendships.

One of our favorite things about the Kingdom of God is the diversity of people found within it and that diversity is on full display in our groups. Currently, we have students from America, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Canada, and Australia. In the past, we've had students from South Korea and Japan as well.



## ON MISSION IN EVERYDAY LIFE: SUDARAT

If you've been following us from the beginning, then you'll remember Sudarat. She worked as the security guard at the condominium that we lived in back in 2008-2009. She always liked to practice her English with us, and we liked to practice our Thai with her. We gave her a Bible that she treasures and she said that she read it all the way through! Sadly, she has yet to become a Christian.

Due to the pandemic and other factors, we have not seen Sudarat much over the past few years. We did, however, visit with her a couple times recently and Matt is going to make it a habit in 2024 of having lunch with her during her break. Over these lunches they will undoubtedly play English/Thai language games and our hope is that Matt has opportunities to talk to her about the Bible.



## ON MISSION IN EVERYDAY LIFE: DARIO AND BOREY

We've shared about Dario and Borey, brothers from Cambodia, a lot over the past year. They were sent to Bangkok years ago by their parents to pay off family debt. They both work at gardeners in our neighborhood and, until recently, had very little days off. Now, Dario is working part-time and attending a makeshift Christian school when not working, and Borey is working full-time.

We have tried so hard to find a way for them to break free from their situation - forced to give up their education and work in another country to pay off their parent's debt - but there just aren't any easy answers. What we can do, however, is continue to love them, meet their present needs, and disciple them. Dario and Borey were baptized last May and they can both be great missionaries to migrant workers right here in Bangkok!



## ON MISSION IN EVERYDAY LIFE: VIRAT AND CHRIS

Chris and Virat (author of *Drawn to Hope*) were both at Construction of Hope when we first began serving there back in 2017. Now, Chris is 19 and Virat is 22. Their families are still working in Bangkok as migrant workers, so they've stayed in Bangkok as well. Like Dario and Borey, Chris and Virat work as gardeners, making less than \$10 USD per day.

We have stayed in touch with these young men through social media and just had a chance to celebrate Christmas with them at Tairomprakhun Church. They live quite far from our house and our church, but they have found a church five minutes from their home that they are happy at. Please pray that we, together with Lifesong, can help both of these young men find work that they enjoy doing and that would also advance the Kingdom of God.





## LEXI AND JUDE

The single most important thing that happened to both of them in 2023 - they were baptized! This was, of course, a joyful moment for the whole family and now we're just watching them grow in Christ. On that note, let us just say a few things about each of them.

Lexi is thoughtful, kind, patient, tenderhearted, and quirky. She loves to play soccer and she scored several goals this year in varsity matches (she's only 13). She is also an avid reader, a lover of dogs, and an aspiring musician (she plays clarinet and, like her dad, attempts to play the guitar).

Jude is considerate, witty, compassionate, and athletic. He loves soccer too and has gone from being the fastest kid in elementary school to being the fastest kid in middle school. He loves telling jokes, playing with friends both indoors (XBOX) and outdoors, and playing games and sports (but he's not hyper-competitive, a rare quality these days).

They did not sign up for the sacrifice that is living overseas, but they have embraced it.

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR 2023

**01**

Pray for Sudarat to be receptive to the gospel and come to Christ.

**02**

Pray for Dario, Borey, Virat, and Chris to have joy in all circumstances.

**03**

Pray for the servants and leaders across Tairomprakhun's churches.

**04**

Pray for the children and those who serve them at Lifesong's orphanages.

**05**

Pray for us to have new ministry opportunities in the coming year.

**06**

Pray for Lexi and Jude to having a growing faith and love for God.



**DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO  
PRAYER, BEING WATCHFUL  
AND THANKFUL.**

COLOSSIANS 4:2





**WE LOVE YOU AND  
THANK GOD FOR YOU,  
THE MILLERS**



matthew\_bobbijo



The Millers in Thailand



[www.1015go.org](http://www.1015go.org)