

Ask the Lord of the Harvest!

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“After this the Lord appointed 72 others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”

[Luke 10:1-2](#) (NIV Version)

Jesus was a better teacher than any of his disciples. So why did he send out 72? His solution to a shortage of laborers was not to draw everyone to his preaching but to raise workers who would personally engage with those far from God.

In North-east Thailand, Christians have held evangelistic meetings for about three decades. The result has been thousands of “raised hands for Christ” but less than a few hundred lasting disciples. In 2018, by contrast, 14 ministry teams of ordinary church members regularly went out prayer walking, sharing their testimony and giving simple Jesus presentations. By mid-2019 these teams had started 35 new discipleship groups, with 240 new disciples regularly attending.

In Central Thailand a completely different group of Christians went house to house talking about Jesus. Interested people from a single village were invited to hear the gospel as a group. Those who responded to Jesus were formed into faith communities, which met in that village. By mid-2019 they had planted 423 simple village churches.

Most Buddhists in Asia live in rural societies that maintain strong community bonds. Good news must include God’s care not just for individuals but also for families and villages.



Ways To Pray:

- Pray that Buddhist-background believers will not rely on famous preachers or tracts but will share their testimonies of Jesus personally with neighbors and friends. Ask for conviction from the Bible that ordinary Christians can and must be God's witnesses today for their own people group.
- Ask that new believers and near-neighbor believers will be filled with the Holy Spirit to speak truth boldly. Pray that they will start groups of disciples who go out and do the same—share the good news and start new groups!

Today, Sinhalese Buddhists make up 70 percent of Sri Lanka's 22 million people.