

Thailand Pastors Network

CTN Update Report



Overview

I am convinced that Thailand and Southeast Asia are open doors for fruitful ministry in the coming years. I felt CTN can say with Paul, "...a great door for effective work has opened to me..." (1 Corinthians 16:9). One of the missionaries who served in Thailand for more than a decade described our coming as a sign from God that the time has come for Thailand to harvest the fruits of sacrificial commitment of missionaries for two centuries. Another missionary described that reaching Thailand is a gateway to reaching Southeast Asia. I believe that Thailand Pastors Network (TPN) was born out of divine initiative and calling to equip equippers in Thailand and Beyond.



I would like to express my appreciation to Christ Community Church of Imperial Valley (CCCIV) and the CTN board's courageous action in equipping pastors. As a result, 141 movement leader coaches were selected and received intensive training for two days. Of these pastors, ninety decided to start ninety small groups to equip 800 strategic leaders. These ninety coaches also train 623 Facilitator pastors who will organize and facilitate 4200± strategic pastors, which makes the total number of pastors 5000±. In the coming sections, I want to share the highlights of the overall TPN actions.



The commitment of the Champion (Director)

I am so grateful for all the hard work and commitment of the TPN director. Having a highly competent and spiritual champion is essential, and God blessed CTN with exceptionally qualified champions representing our partner denominations. In Africa, CTN has been working with highly structured organizations, but in Thailand, there are 6,774± churches, and most of these churches are independent and small. There are some national alliances dedicated to bringing all the evangelical churches together. CTN did its part to build a relationship with these alliances and is still working on it. However, Rev. Dr. Praphan Nawrat is one of the key national figures, and he used his national influence to bring key leaders from all over Thailand. Dr. Nawrat organized one of the most colorful and successful launchings in CTN. He translated Pastoring the Flock of God manual and workbook into Thai and published it before the launching dates. He used many volunteers to organize, facilitate, and follow up on the training. Currently, he is dedicated to training the facilitators and working with the advisory council to make all the resources accessible to pastors of Thailand.



TPN Advisory Council

Ten representatives from five regions of Thailand selected and officially started their leadership support to the director and TPN plan. This Advisory council serves as the national and regional leadership team. They are also responsible for coordinating coaches in their regions. They play a pivotal role in coaching and mentoring other coaches in their region. They support the champion by facilitating partnership development meetings with churches in their region. Most of the advisory council members are part of either regional or national members of the Thailand Protestant Committee Chair (National Fellowship). They want to see TPN becomes the pastoral training wing of the Alliance. CCCIV and CTN leaders had fruitful meetings with them, and it was a great encouragement to know their willingness and commitment to equipping pastors across Thailand.

TPN Coaches Training

Coaches play crucial roles at the provincial level, and some coaches will provide leadership beyond their provinces. The director selected 141 Coach Pastors, and they participated in the strategic consultation workshop in Chiang Mai Grandview Hotel and Convention Center during July 19-21, 2022. Most of these pastors attended various training in the past, and some described that they are tired of fruitless training. But they explained that TPN's training is different, and they assured that it is the most needed training to empower pastors and to help the church in Thailand to disciple the believers in Christ Jesus. From 141 pastors, 91 pastors developed a plan to start their small group and to train an average of seven pastors from seven different churches. The other coaches decided to consult with their leaders when they went back to their provinces. At the end of the consultation workshop, six coaches described what this training means to them and what they will do with it for the whole coaches. It is so encouraging to hear their passion and plan. Praise the Lord!



Trainer Team

As part of the trainer team, I observed the hunger and active engagement of the coaches. We used to finish the workshop every day around 10:00 pm, but it was so encouraging watching the pastors commit to the cause of the workshop. Except for being overwhelmed with the number of selfies with pastors during breaks, I was resilient. I strongly felt the prayers, the presence of the living God, and the manifestation of the work of the Holy Spirit. I would like to say thank you for your prayers and encouraging emails.

The trainers used various methods to engage the coaches: lecture, discussions, teamwork, and individualized learning. They addressed the why, what, and how aspects of the program. The director planned to use after-dinner sessions for three days. On arrival day night, Pastor Jerry shared the framework of the pastoral ministry and its significance to the coaches. The second day night, Pastor Walter shared his testimony of how God transformed his life and called him to pastoral ministry; it was one of the most powerful sessions. On the third day night, Pastor Jerry commissioned the pastors sharing from the word of God.

I would like to thank Pastor Jerry, Walter, and Jonathan for their commitment to giving everything in all possible ways. The willingness to listen to each other, the TPN team, and unrestricted collaboration made the training exemplary and impactful. Although one way 30+ hours of flight and layover is not fun, I have no regret; the result shows that it is worth everything we did and will do.



The Way Forward to TPN

August and September 2022 will still be considered the launching phase. Each Coach is responsible for equipping an average of seven facilitator pastors from seven churches. All the coaches and facilitators will organize one small group of seven to twelve strategic pastors. The TPN and Advisory Committee will continue to provide leadership to all the coaches. The coaches will continue to train facilitators across their provinces.

We had an opportunity to discuss equipping pastors in Southeast Asia with various leaders. From all our conversations, Malaysia's leaders sound ready to move forward. But it requires further study and resource development. So, in the coming months, the TPN director will navigate all the possible strategies to develop feasible partnerships with churches in Southeast Asia.

All Glory to God!!!

