

Bethlehem Star of Peace ID - THAILAND

What is an ID? The Cambridge Dictionary says your ID is something you use to prove who you are. It is your identification. In psychoanalysis the “id” includes your most basic needs and emotions, the deepest part of your being. This is **Part Two** of the report of the **Bethlehem Star of Peace International Directors (ID) Dennis & Melody Nordine** based on recent extended visits to Thailand and Cambodia. They spent time with each of the 9 fieldworkers (plus 3 kids) currently deployed in Thailand during their annual **Field Council** that included evaluations of the past year and planning for 2025. What’s included in a **BSOP Field Council** meeting? Look!



Jasper arrived in Bangkok January 23, 2024. His first weeks were with his brother Jezreel, Santisuk-LKB, and Star of Peace Church. He joined a cell group, taught English classes at Santisuk, helped with music in the church, and started hanging out with guys in the community. After Jasper joined English camp, he moved to Santisuk's main campus, became involved in youth ministry, training worship musicians, and began daily Thai classes at Union Language School. He is now studying Level Five of six foundational Thai language and culture subjects.



Jasper's 2025 goals:

- + Complete **Thai levels 5 & 6** concentrating on reading and writing Thai
- + Build **competency using Thai** by joining Santisuk (Peace) church, youth, & sports activities
- + Raise up **new prayer and financial supporters** to fund language modules and living expenses to stay in Bangkok through 2025 and beyond. One-time gifts will be exhausted by mid-2025. His monthly income averages **47% of his budget of \$650**.
- + Participate in three **Santisuk outreach events**--Sports Camp, English Camp, and retreats

Pray for Jasper's:

- + **strength, wisdom, and perseverance** in understanding Thai language and culture.
- + opportunities for **spiritual conversations**.
- + life to **shine for Jesus** at school, church, youth group, cell group, the market, sports nights, and his community.



Jezreel “Don” and Carol Estrella were the first church planters to leave Santisuk’s main campus to begin a new English center and church near the Bangkok International Airport. Not only has CJ grown since those early days, **Star of Peace Church**, its ministries, and **Santisuk English Center-LKB** have also changed. They now average about 30 students each month in English classes. They are planting **gospel seeds 450 times each month** in the hearts of Thai learners--most of whom know nothing about Jesus before coming to Santisuk.

This year their church had a **baptism service in January** and again in **October**. Four young disciples publicly shared their decision to follow Jesus. The Estrellas’ American partner Deb retired in October.



2011



2024



Jan '24



Oct '24



Pray for Don & Carol

Pray for:

- + 30+ students to enroll monthly
- + 10% of students to **join a cell meeting**
- + **spiritual growth** in Star of Peace Church

- + a **new Thai staff** to join their team. Current staff member Aun has been drafted!
- + for **CJ** as he is one of the **leaders in his small Christian school**
- + **more financial supporters** for Don & Carol. They are currently **lacking \$323 monthly**
- + one long-term and many short-term **English teachers** to join Don & Carol

Visit [Don and Carol Estrella’s webpage](https://globalhz.org/bsop-j-c-estrella/) for updates & to donate at <https://globalhz.org/bsop-j-c-estrella/>



Melton and Meaw Ybanez serve in southern Thailand in Phang-nga City. They **help strengthen local churches** in their province through preaching and teaching seminars, interacting with pastors, holding outreach events, and spearheading a prison ministry in their city. The church closest to their home has a new pastor—a fresh graduate from Bible college who has lived in northern Thailand. M & M are spending extended time with that young pastor, teaching about southern Thai culture as well as the role of the pastor in a local church.



M & M will soon resume weekly prison “values education” classes based on biblical principles and verses. (The prison was closed to outsiders due to an outbreak of Covid some months ago.) In 2024, their goal was to have 60 male and 60 female inmates join the classes. They averaged **200 women, nearly 200 men plus 20 officers** joining the training! **Two inmates were baptized** in the prison during 2024, and they have continued the ministry by encouraging 104 inmates to complete FEBC **Bible correspondence lessons**.

Pray that:

- + there will be great results from 3 **English day camps** in 3 local schools
- + there will be spiritual fruit from a joint Phang-nga **Christian camp** in April 2025
- + the **worship team members** Meaw trains will grow musically as well as spiritually
- + three family members who attend M & M’s **Bible study** will follow Jesus
- + 200 male and 200 female **prison inmates** will join M & M’s values classes



- + five or more English students at Song Praek School will join **church youth events** held near their school and they will make friends with Christian youth
- + Melton’s teaching at **Andaman Institute of Theology** will equip pastors and church leaders
- + at least four of M & M’s **disciples and contacts will be baptized** in 2025



Teacher/Baker
Rhesa

Rhesa Gravino is Director of **Santisuk English Center—Phahonyothin (SEC-PYT)**. In 2024 they enrolled a total of **363 students at various levels of conversational English**. Each class includes 15 two-hour sessions and there is Bible infusion in each lesson taught by a committed follower of Jesus who models living a Christian life. During 2024, SEC-PYT had **more than 540 opportunities monthly to sow gospel seeds** in student hearts and minds. Rhesa’s regular staff includes herself and two dedicated Thai women. In the months where there is a volunteer USA native speaker joining the team, enrollment goes up by about 20%! Dennis & Melody taught with Rhesa at SEC-PYT for several months this year. The **PYT team needs a long-term native English speaker** to be led by God to join them to be most strategic in planting the good news.

Rhesa uses her passion for **cooking and baking** to make class parties at the Santisuk center delicious and memorable.

Students join special events travelling to events and sights around the city. In 2024 they walked and partied across a beautiful new bridge before it was open to traffic, visited a royal palace light show, and watched the Thai King lead a royal regatta in the Chao Phraya River. PYT students and staff also joined Santisuk English Camp and Santisuk Family Camp. Outings give students more exposure to English speaking. At the same time, they get to see how Christians have fun together.

Weekly cell group meetings show students how Christians worship in a small group, share together what God is teaching them, and pray for the needs of one another. In 2024 there has been a small but steady group of students visiting cell and joining outreach events; there has been a consistent enrollment averaging 36 English students; but **none decided to follow Jesus**.



Rhesa
hosting cell
group in her
condo

Pray for:

- + a **spiritual breakthrough** in PYT in 2025
- + enrollment to increase to **at least 40 students monthly**
- + **short-term and long-term English volunteer teachers** to serve at SEC-PYT
- + Rhesa’s **financial support** to increase. In 2023, she was 100% supported, but in '24 her support has dropped over \$200 per month! Pray for more financial support team members to join her team.



Pray for
Rhesa



Ethel

Whenever there is an event at Santisuk English School's (SES) main campus, you will normally find **SES Director Ethel Alino** in the background. Her role includes organizing, planning, and scheduling SES classes, day trips, on-campus activities, Santisuk curriculum development, and teacher training. Ethel regularly communicates with

USA volunteer short-term teachers, coordinates their Bangkok stay, and leads cultural orientation.

She also teaches conversational English classes that include Bible truths every day.



Ethel

Peace Fellowship Church (PFC) is the result of decades of sowing seeds of biblical truth in hearts at Santisuk (Thai for "peace"). Ethel is active in the **PFC youth ministry, cell groups, church planning and administration, discipling, and counselling**. Much of that ministry is done from the "back seat," not in an up-front role.

In late December 2024, **Ethel will** return to the Philippines for **Home Assignment**. She will reconnect with family and friends, and visit supporters while recharging spiritually, emotionally, and physically. While in the Philippines, Ethel will also serve as a mission mobilizer, seeking Filipinos to partner with BSOP in prayer and finance. She'll help recruit and equip new fieldworkers to serve with BSOP among the unreached peoples of Thailand, Cambodia, and surrounding SE Asian nations. She will return to Bangkok by May.



Pray for Ethel

Pray for:

- + **100+** English students to enroll each month
- + students to be **receptive to the gospel**
- + multiple **US short-term teachers** to come and effectively teach classes each month
- + completion of **new editions** of Book 1 and Book 2 in the **Let's Learn English** series
- + her cell group to **birth another cell** in 2025
- + her to be guided in **mentoring Thai co-workers, new believers, and seekers**



Lisbes arrive in Bangkok

Gerardo “Boy” and Daryl Lisbe arrived in Bangkok before the 2024 BSOP Thailand Field Council. They were able to join with BSOP Thailand family and build a foundation for many years of future missionary service to the Lord among the Thai people. Decades ago, **Daryl served a one-year internship in Bangkok** with Santisuk. The following year **Boy also experienced a year of missionary internship with Santisuk**. After their graduation from Baptist Theological College (BTC) they were married and spent a decade helping plant a new church in Cebu, Philippines. They then

returned to BTC as faculty members where Boy eventually became the BTC Vice President and Dean of the Graduate School. They made numerous trips for BSOP to encourage fieldworkers in Cambodia and Thailand and eventually, God called them to return to cross-cultural ministry in Thailand.



Union Church and Language School campus

They are now re-orienting their ears to Thai language and being reintroduced to Thai culture. **Thia and Sam** are adjusting to their new home in Bangkok. Boy and Daryl are exploring schooling options for the kids in 2025 (homeschooled in 2024) and have enrolled in **Union (Christian) Language School** to begin full-time Thai language and culture classes early in 2025. They will follow new BSOP fieldworker, Jasper E, who is now in Level Five (of six). They will commute daily to the city center of Bangkok. Thia and Sam will study in the lobby/lounge as Boy and Daryl learn in the classroom. Together they’ll learn Thai culture and language.

Lisbes have already been welcomed into a multi-lingual, multi-cultural, multi-generational **cell group** that’s part of Peace Fellowship Church. They discovered a condo within walking distance from the main campus of Santisuk English School and will **move to their new home December 26!**



Lumpini Condos Ladprao



Pray for the Lisbes

Pray that:

- + they can learn to **understand and speak Thai** well
- + they will build **good friendships** in their new home
- + they can help **their cell group grow** and multiply
- + they will find **the right school** for Thia and Sam
- + they will **attract Thai families** to follow Jesus