

HANDS OF HOPE FOUNDATION

PATTAYA, THAILAND 2015

Operation Hope Post Trip Report
June/July 2015

OVERVIEW:

Hands of Hope Foundation has opened up a new front in the battle against human trafficking and is offering Hope with our new friends we have made in Pattaya, Thailand over the last couple of years. On June 20th, our advanced team of four members traveled to Pattaya, Thailand to prepare. On June 25th, eleven more team members joined to serve. **The Hands of Hope Foundation is about offering hope in Christ according to 1 Peter 3:15 by striving to be ambassadors of Christ in word and deed.**



We have been nurturing and developing a partnership with 2 incredible ministries in Pattaya—**Tamar Center** www.tamarcenter.org and **Hand to Hand Foundation** www.handtohandpattaya.com. **The Tamar Center** works to provide hope to over 30,000 bar girls and “ladyboys” that populate the human trafficking trade in Pattaya. **Hand to Hand Foundation** is offering the hand of Christ to those that are in prison and to those living in poverty in the various slums that surround Pattaya. Their ministry is impacting the lives of abandoned babies, children and elderly in amazing ways. Both of these incredible ministries have created an extremely credible foundation through the grace, mercy and love of Christ that is now crying for a Church to be built upon it. As a result, **Hands of Hope Foundation’s Operation Hope Initiative** has expanded our focus by partnering with these great ministries and taking their work to the next level and launching a series of new churches on a frontier that exhibits very little evidence of Christianity.

Why Pattaya? Pattaya was born as the beach-recreation destination of the Asian world. It is surrounded by the nations of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar/Burma and China. If you take Las Vegas/San Francisco/New Orleans-Bourbon Street and put them together on a scenic Gulf Coast with beaches, then you have Pattaya. It is the place where many personnel from all the militaries of the world, involved in the various conflicts in this region for the last 100 years, have gone for SHORE-LEAVE. As a result, it has flourished as one of the most indulgent sin-city meccas of the world. The world has created this place and it is to the “utter most” regions of the world that Jesus has called the Church “to go and be His Witnesses!”

Thailand boasts a Christian population estimated between .5 and 1% (Around 1 in 100). While some mission organizations are doing great work, the actual evident footprint of the Church of

Jesus Christ is very absent. *"I discovered a beautiful and generous people who are trapped in a world of poverty and the cycle of human trafficking. Everywhere I went, I was overwhelmed by the need for hope and freedom. In a country that is barely 1% Christian, the light of Christ is virtually nonexistent. There are people struggling and dying that the church is able to serve. This is why we are starting one of the first networks of Thai operated churches that can reach Thai people."* - **Joshua Benitone, Hands of Hope Director of Operations.**

The **Hands of Hope Foundation** sent in two advance teams, and has trained a team of over 25 local leaders to join us in planting new **Community of Faith** churches. These leaders began working with us in February, and became our leadership development core for church planting in June and July. They helped launch the initial 4 locations in Pattaya at **3rd Road, Soi 6, Tepparsit 7, and Gohpai 1**. We are currently training leaders for new church plants in Pattaya in the summer of 2016, and to move to another region called Isaan, on the boarder to Cambodia and Laos. We are blessed to have Community of Faith Church in Marion serving as the covering and sponsor to these new developing Community of Faith Thailand Churches.

Our June-July Outreach Team was part of a work that literally began to expand the Kingdom of God through His Church in amazing ways. This was undoubtedly, a ground-breaking and pioneering trip as we launched some new churches in locations where there are almost no Christian churches present. During the trip, we worked with the ministry and outreach programs of both **Tamar Center** and **Hand to Hand Foundation**. We also created launch event/crusade outreaches for the four church plant sites and began the work on 2-3 future sites. **For His Glory** sent a worship team to help create worship and music outreaches. We worked with the Prison, Slums, Baby and Children's ministry programs of **Hand to Hand Foundation** along with their team, led by Margaret Grainer and Khun Pai. We also worked with the **Tamar Center** in both their **3rd Road** and **Soi 6** Outreach Centers, mission posts that minister to the bar girls and ladyboys of the Pattaya streets. These programs are designed to bring people out of that life, and re-equip them with vocational training in their bakery-coffee house, beauty shop and card-jewelry-scarf design programs. We also worked with some of their training classes, spent time in the Tamar Center Prayer Room, interceding for God to win the city of Pattaya, and did street outreach with them to the bar girls and ladyboys.

Our three week trip included incredible miracles and breakthrough. **The Tamar Center** and **Hand to Hand Foundation** had been preparing the ground for our successful outreach for years. Because of their hard work and the trust they have earned with locals, we saw hundreds of salvations, people being delivered and set free through worship and prayer, and incredible physical healing. There are now four **Community of Faith** churches that are run by local pastors and worship leaders with oversight by **Hands of Hope Foundation, Hand to Hand Foundation, and Tamar Center**. With Thailand being less than 1% Christian, this is a huge opportunity!

This outreach trip was focused on 3 goals:

1. Connecting with the ministry and outreach programs of **The Tamar Center** as they provide a place of Hope in the midst of the world's centers of human trafficking.
2. Standing with the work of the **Hand to Hand Foundation** in their ministry to the least fortunate of Pattaya.
3. Growing faithful followers of Christ and reaching the Lost by launching a new **Community of Faith Church** movement in at least three locations and soon to be more.

Partnering with the Tamar Center



The **Tamar Center** has two outreach facilities. One is a hair salon and space for teaching English on **Soi 6**, the most popular street of porch style, open bars filled with sexual slavery and prostitution. The other is a bakery and gift making shop on **3rd Road** where greeting cards, scarves, and jewelry are hand crafted by the women. The **Tamar Center's** mission is to provide hope in a city full of red-light districts and to provide healing through love, biblical principles and to provide education as well as job opportunities for girls leaving the bars. They have multiple training opportunities to provide alternate sources of income. Just because these girls get saved does not mean they get to magically have all the money they need to walk away from their career in prostitution. Getting saved doesn't pay off a pimp, put food on the table,



or erase past mistakes and consequences. Salvation creates an opportunity for God to lead them out of the darkness and into a new life and a beautiful and wonderful plan to prosper them and give them life to the full. This makes the alternate jobs a game changer that helps to free the women from their bar work and begin a new life.

Hands of Hope Foundation came alongside of the **Tamar Center** to help minister to these women. In Thailand, God used us to pray with prostitutes in the middle of the streets in one of the darkest places in the world. The girls on our team went on an outreach one night to a few bars before the bar traffic got too busy and simply talked to the girls and invited them to

the Tamar Center's English class. We stood on the streets and in the churches and gave testimonies of how God has transformed our lives and how he can do the same for them. Two cosmetologists, Mary Ann Troutman and Emily Clark, joined us on our trip and spent time training the **Tamar Center** stylists. This was an incredible opportunity for our ladies to love on and invest in these women.

Worship and Bar Outreach:

One of our major events was playing live worship and leading a crusade right in the heart of the darkness on **Soi 6**. The Thai people love music and dancing, so worship is an awesome way to use what is familiar to minister to them. We did these events two nights in a row. The first night, we set up a tent in front of the **Tamar Center** and **For His Glory** led a rocking worship set and



we had all kinds of people stopping and trying to figure out what was going on. Tourists looking for entertainment, bar girls, ladyboys, food cart vendors, and taxi drivers all wondered what was going on. One of our team members, Emily, gave a powerful testimony and girls responded, asking for prayer afterwards. Another team member, Megan, talked about how Jesus loved the prostitutes in the Bible and that anyone who judges them is just as sinful in His eyes. A girl came over from a bar to the **Tamar Center**. She asked one of our team members to pray for her because she wanted to become a Christian. After Sadye prayed and talked with her, she went back over to the bar and sat on the side crying. She knew that Jesus was real, but she still felt trapped in her way of life. People on short term missions like us can come in and do incredible work and develop relationships over a couple weeks as we witness and pray with people. However, we are relying on the locals in full-time ministry to complete the work. These girls need people who will disciple them, walk through life with them, re-equip, and give them advice. This is why we planted churches and are growing leaders within the community who will continue the discipleship and ministry. There is only so much an American based ministry can do for these girls, and this is why partnering with local ministries like **Tamar Center** is so crucial.



Partnering with Hand to Hand Foundation

Hand to Hand Foundation is a Christian organization that is based in Pattaya, who recognize that human rights apply to all age groups. They seek to protect those who are marginalized regardless of their race, age or religion. They achieve this by showing them the love of Jesus Christ through prayer and, on a much more practical level, by providing services such as helping them acquire legal documentation and offering food, clothing and education.

Hand to Hand Foundation heavily focuses on children in the local slums. One very big problem in Thailand is that children have little to no rights or protection, and education is not a priority. This makes it very difficult to protect children in abusive or negligent situations. This organization is on fire for God and, as of this past summer, **Hands of Hope Foundation** and **Community of Faith Church** are committed to providing them with the Pastoral care and resources that will allow them to further their impact. **Hands of Hope Foundation** partnered with this local organization by loving the children; painting their faces, doing crafts with them, praying for them, and helping teach lessons. Our team members from **For His Glory** performed at a family day at **Hand to Hand Foundation** where eyes were opened, bodies were healed, and hearts were turned to the Lord. A young girl was miraculously healed of a heart condition she had her whole life. There was a father and son that we have been interceding for that had both accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior!



We joined **Hand to Hand Foundation** on prison outreaches, where we fed and prayed with the prisoners, many of which are entire immigrant families. Our medical team members also ministered to the prisoners by wrapping broken bones, giving medicine, treating wounds, and caring for them. Every week, **Hand to Hand Foundation** visits the hospitals to pray for children and their families as well as offer emotional and physical support by donating essentials such as food, formula, diapers, toys, and blankets. Our medical team joined them and was a part of the loving ministry that was extended to these children and their families.

Planting Community of Faith Thailand Churches



Hands of Hope Foundation partnered directly with **Community of Faith Church, Marion, Illinois** with the intention of planting three churches in Pattaya in 2015 and then continuing to expand this network of church plants with local leaders. **Hands of Hope Foundation's** experience in leading crusades, outreach, and community evangelism opened the door for a church to capitalize on the move of God. **Community of Faith Church** has "a mission to grow faithful followers of Christ regionally and globally through prayer, worship, outreach, evangelism, and

discipleship.” Out of this came a perfect partnership for this mission, and the Lord gave us the favor and resources to plant, not just three, but four churches on this trip!

Mission Churches in 3rd Road and Soi 6



The first **Community of Faith Church** is on **3rd Road** in a bakery and shop run by women of the **Tamar Center**, a center that helps women leave the trafficking industry. The second church is stationed in the most intense party street in the city. This church is located on the 3rd floor of the **Tamar Center**

beauty shop, looking over **Soi 6**, which is the center of sex-trafficking and prostitution in Pattaya. Both of these venues have become a major beacon of light and hope for bar girls and locals. The pastors running these venues are former trafficking victims and their testimonies have incredible power and authority in the streets. The demand for the industry of sex trade, homosexuality, and gender changes is loud, but God’s voice is louder, and these two churches are beginning to have an impact on their areas. Today, the **Tamar Center** is seeing success stories and miracles. We planted a church right in the middle of complete chaos and brokenness. So many lives were transformed within our short time here, but there is an endless amount of growth that is still to come. We are so excited about how God is revealing himself to the people of Pattaya!

The church at **3rd Road** has become the flagship **Community of Faith Church** in Pattaya. It is the central location and biggest venue. Tamar Center has been blessed with a wonderful four story building for their ministry. This incredible facility allows us to have a large space for worship and even a space for a children’s ministry. **3rd Road** has a major emphasis on discipleship with bar girls on their way out and connecting with whole families. On October 4,



Elder Nella Davidse, along with Pastor Waan & Tu, performed the first ever baptisms in our Thailand churches. The **3rd Road** family went to the beach and celebrated as nine people were baptized! This church continues to reach out to the bar girls and lady boys and share the Love of Christ through prayer, worship, outreach, evangelism, and discipleship.

Our **Soi 6** church is uniquely a mission church to reach bargirls and ladyboys on the same street that they work. The outreaches and services are carefully planned so that the average girl working on the streets could come participate before going to work for the night. A typical service or outreach sees girls coming in the door broken, but they come as they are. They don't kick them out if they are wearing a revealing outfit, or if they are still stuck in prostitution, but they lead them to Jesus. Without Him, it is next to impossible for these girls to get out of the cycle. The pastors and team of **Soi 6** are all testimonies of how God can take the life of a trapped sex worker, and restore them into a beautiful example of His grace and power. The bargirls and ladyboys in the streets see our pastors as walking miracles and are drawn to the hope and joy they see. The church leaders of **Soi 6** are ready with an answer for the Hope that is within them!

Slum Churches in Gohpai and Tepparsit 7



Why plant churches in slums? These are some of the darkest places. It is truly difficult to capture in words what you see and experience walking into any of the slums in Pattaya. You wade through trash. The few buildings are made of leftover materials and garbage. The people are filthy and struggling with any number of addictions and illnesses. Kids are running around covered in dirt, kicking old bottles and other garbage items in their path. Parents are doing their best to provide whatever meals, clothing, and shelter they can find. Once living in these conditions, it is next to impossible to work out of them. Unfortunate circumstances see people living in the slums against their will. Many of the adults

there, for one reason or another, cannot provide a birth certificate to prove they are from Thailand. This may be due to losing parents, a house fire, or some other reason. If you cannot prove that you are a Thai citizen, you can legally be paid only one-third of minimum wage. Imagine your life in the U.S. making less than \$3 an hour (our minimum wage in Illinois is still under \$9 an hour). Some of the people lost their job due to injury at work or in an accident, and there is no government system in place to care for them. Others are handicapped and trapped in dire living situations. There are many who are there because of serious drug addictions. This plays heavily into the trafficking industry as some families will sell their children to pay off a drug debt. Yet, God has the ability to heal and reach these people.

Hands of Hope Foundation went into the darkest places with a simple message of love—God loves you. Before a single word was mentioned about Jesus, we showed Jesus in our actions. Our teams played with children, painted faces, provided medical services, cut hair, and conversed with people. We set up tents right in the middle of their communities. No building, no stage, no glory. This was nothing but pure,



unadulterated ministry. **For His Glory** performed two to three hour concerts, leading into a time of worship, a presentation of the Gospel, and a time for response from the people. Seeing this model come to life was absolutely incredible. We were “*being Jesus*” to people who have never had the opportunity to walk into a church building, like we do in America. In order to get these churches up and moving, we had to get dirty and lay the groundwork. Picking up trash, digging up dirt, hanging signs, clearing out concrete areas, moving heavy equipment, and scattering rocks to fill holes is not always fun in one hundred degree weather. But these things are just as important as the worship, teaching, and fellowship because without the hard work put in, none of the ministry would have taken place. These acts of love gave us the ability to speak into the hearts of the people.

Over the few weeks our **Hands of Hope Foundation** team was present, we began to equip local leaders to take charge. We led crusades in the slums and streets, while watching God work in the hearts of His people. Face painting, haircuts and wellness check-ups were three simple, but powerful forms of outreach in these places. It’s safe to say not a single woman in these slums ever had an American stylist making them feel beautiful. This was an incredible act of love and servant hood. Pastor Troy taught about the “*Monkey and the Coconut*” in the crusades. This teaches on the importance of letting go of whatever it is holding you back from experiencing what the Lord has for you. This message resonated in the hearts of both the children and the adults. By the end of our time, our two targeted slums and **Community of Faith** church plants, named **Tepparsit 7** and **Gohpai 1**, saw over fifty salvations, healings, and people being set free from years of bondage in the name of Jesus. At Gohpai, the people even decided to turn their sacred Buddhist shrine into an anchor to tie down our own tents. Unbelievable! The most beautiful aspect of this mission is that we are not just American missionaries traveling to a foreign country to lead a revival and leave. We are American missionaries traveling to a foreign country to partner with incredible local organizations that already exist, maximizing the impact they had already begun. Because of this, when we left the country, we left behind leaders that are more equipped than ever before to grow and disciple their own people in an indigenous-led church. This allows them to carry on their ministry with their own local influence, making a much larger impact than we ever could from afar. This is truly a beautiful example of unity in the Church.

These two churches are planted in the middle of two of the worst slums in the city. Yet, what is happening here will leave you in awe. People are being delivered from drug and alcohol addictions, cycles of abuse are ending, and the communities are being transformed. The chiefs of both slums have given their hearts to Jesus and are leading their communities. This is unheard of in Thailand. Weekly, we are getting reports of new salvations in these slums. The people are running their own churches and are taking pride and ownership in their new faith. They show up hours early to help set-up and stay as late as they can. They love worship and sing and dance for hours! People are hurting physically, emotionally, and spiritually. They have absolutely no hope. But **Hands of Hope Foundation** exists to *offer Hope in Christ!* The new **Community of Faith Churches** are continuing this work every week of *growing faithful followers in Christ.*

Hands of Hope Foundation's Future Plans in Thailand



Our Executive Director, Pastor Troy will be returning to do a follow-up mission in early January, 2016. He will be (1) Meeting with our new COF Churches, (2) Doing mass church discipleship training and baptism events, (3) holding advance pastors/associate/leaders training for our church leadership team, (4) doing advance planning for our June 23-July 8, Operation Hope 2016 Outreach Team to Pattaya & Isaan, Thailand. Our June-July Outreach Team will focus on:

- Church Planting Crusade-Outreaches in 2 additional Slum Villages with the **Hand to Hand Foundation** Team.
- Church Planting Crusade-Outreaches in the Northern Thailand region of Isaan with the **Tamar Center** Team.
- Holding a couple of school impact outreaches with **Hand to Hand Foundation** in partnership with our current Slum area churches in Pattaya.
- Reconnecting and Worshiping with the Community of Faith Thailand Churches at 3rd Road, Soi 6, Tepparsit 7 and Gohpai 1, launched during our 2015 outreach.

Closing Words

The entire **Hands of Hope Foundation** Outreach Team is extremely thankful for all of the family, friends, churches, loved ones, organizations, businesses, and saints that helped us with the finances, resources, and equipment needed to make this trip an incredible success.



We brought 15 team members from the United States that were doctors, nurses, teachers, artists, musicians, cosmetologists, evangelists, and prayer warriors. Their gifts and skills were invaluable in planting churches and sharing the Gospel. We also want to thank **Tamar Center** and **Hand to Hand Foundation** for the hard work they have done and continue to do reaching the broken and forgotten of Pattaya, Thailand.



We are also grateful to the **Community of Faith Church** in Marion for providing pastoral support and ecclesiastical leadership over the newly planted Community of Faith Thailand Churches. **Tamar Center** and **Hand to Hand Foundation** generously gave us their entire staffs to work alongside us during our outreaches. We continue to covet your prayers and invite

your partnership with us in making this outreach and future such outreaches a continued success. We ask that you pray for our four churches and the local pastors and leaders that are giving their lives to grow new faithful followers of Christ. As we work together *offering hope in Christ*, may these efforts be a blessing to God, to His children that stand in such great need, and to a nation where God is using the formerly broken and oppressed to share His light and hope.

The **Hands of Hope Foundation** is a non-for-profit 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt foundation in Illinois. You can learn more about our foundation from our website at www.hohfoundation.org, and can even support our work through our **Donation link** online. If you have further questions or would like additional information about joining us for an outreach or supporting one of our future projects listed above, please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Troy D. Benitone by phone: 618-997-2949 or by email: Troy@hohfoundation.org.



Operation Hope 2016 Pattaya & Isaan, Thailand

Thur, June 23 – Fri, July 8

We are limited to 20 Team Members.

Registration Deadline- March 15.

If you are interested in being a part of the team.

Please Message or Email Troy@hohfoundation.org

In
Partnership
with:



Outreaches to Including:
*Church Planting Crusades, Community & School
Impact Events, Human Trafficking Outreaches &
other opportunities to OFFER HOPE IN CHRIST!*





HANDS ^{OF} HOPE

FOUNDATION

Offering Hope
in Christ

1 Peter 3:15



Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.
1 Peter 3:15