

MISSION STATEMENT

Build financial relief for missionaries-in-training and missionaries in the field.
Grow a prayer lifeline to nurture their spiritual, physical and economic needs.

A TSUNAMI FROM WITHIN

Written by a Harvesters' Scholarship Award Recipient of 2008, 2009

Answering to His call:

My name is R. I was born in Bangkok in 1972. During the college years, I came to know Christ through a staff of Campus Crusade for Christ in 1991. I was equipped to become an internship group leader through Sunday school, a mentor and a cell group. At Immanuel Baptist Church in Bangkok, I learned to have close fellowship with God.

After the tsunami hit Southern Thailand in 2004, I had compassion for the affected people. I served with Pastor Achara Achararattanasopon, who came from Thai Community Mahapawn New York Church, to help the tsunami victims. As a volunteer architect, I repaired houses that were damaged by the tsunami, designed and supervised the construction of the sanctuary and the nursery building of Pak Ping Church. I learned to depend on God's sufficient grace through sharing the good news and hope with the affected people. During two years of working in Southern Thailand, so I started studying at ATS in the Spring Semester in 2008.

God uses crisis to redeem and transform broken lives. My passion is for the ministry of counseling and equipping young people to be Christ's workers and try to bring people to the relationship with God and live out their faith. My vision is about encouraging God's people to apply His words so that they will grow in Christ and be able to cope with their problem and serve the community in order to spread the gospel and plant churches in Southern Thailand, which is mostly unevangelized.

God is with me:

Answering God's call is a life long process; walking step-by-step in that calling is molding my life for a specific purpose. I never thought of the specific call since I grew up in non-Christian family. To be a real Christian, succeeding in my career, and loving God that was enough. I never knew his whole plan. God never told me a sequence. What I knew was that once

I took the first step, God took care of me providing the next step I could take by faith and love. Listening to his calling requires acceptance of the past, limitation of the present, and honoring previous decisions and commitments. I believe that the past influences my present as God weaves people and events into my life.

My first call, in 2005, called me to surrender to God's sovereignty. In the middle of some personal hard times, God called me out of my comfort zone to see the dramatic needs of others, helping tsunami victims. To be honest, I did not actually do it out of the goodness of my own heart. I was encouraged by the pastor to step out for two weeks to go and see how those victims survived after disaster struck their whole lives. With my own problems and a challenge of starting over, I went down south to volunteer with a conviction, "Lord, I will do whatever the leaders you appoint tell me to do." I began with driving a truck to survey damages and to provide construction materials for rebuilding survivors' houses. I was to listen to their loss and mourn with them while I helped to fix their houses.

From suffering with others, I learned of the compassion of God and the humility and obedience of Christ. Looking at building fragments along the beach, I realized that a house humanly built was not lasting, like my life built my own way. God molded me as I lived in a movement of reviving community and healing individual lives. Amazingly, in helping others, my heart was being renewed too. One image that I will never forget is the coconut trees still standing surrounded by tsunami devastation. Many people were saved by climbing to the top of them when the huge waves came. It was about embracing humility, surrender to Christ's enthronement in my life, and not to break but to bend and accept God's sovereignty. To follow the call, I first let God take control of my life, walking me to the needy people.

My second call, in 2007, called me to 'GO'. For over

a year while I was serving there I had prayed about going to seminary. God assured me of his calling by revealing a sign, affirming through mentors and pastors, and opening a door to go overseas. Needing to learn in a multi-cultural context to broaden my horizons, I came to NY studying at ATS. Gratefully, with C&MA ministry grant and HSF scholarship for the second year, I was able to afford to study until this third year. Through your prayers and financial support, God's grace is always sufficient for me especially in the needs of following his call. I have learned to take the next step even though I do not feel ready or lack sufficient resources. Also, the example and encouragement from mentors about God's faithfulness and steadfast love motivate me in every step I took.

I immensely enjoyed my experience working with the affected people, foreign volunteers, staffs and especially networking with about twenty churches, NGOs and Christian organizations. With pastors and missionaries modeling for me, I mentored young workers and encouraged new believers. Two years of volunteer tsunami relief, doing church and nursery building in the real field were very unique and challenging and prepared me to understand tensions between church and mission, urban and rural ministries. During my study at ATS, I used the context of tsunami churches and observation of Thais in different contexts to analyze and to consider how to contextualize a ministry to Thais' needs of God's grace.

I see the Thai Church as a social and cultural institution involved in community service. As Christ's workers emerge, they will inevitably seek skills of understanding people and their socio-cultural context, appreciate the efficacy of helping people, and build community in order to reach out as well as to live out Christ's characters to communicate the gospel. Therefore, my focus of his call is now to equip

young workers to live out their faith and to be ready to do His will and pass on to the next generation (Eph. 4:12).

I am presently discerning a third call to "do" work with Thai people. This semester I had an opportunity to join a group of mission students and professors to study ethnography of Thais. I saw an open window to reach out to my people -- people whose hearts may be more easily opened to God's grace when they are aliens in NYC rather than being at home in Thailand. God re-called me to do what he started weaving when in 2001 I came to New York and met Thai Community Church.

Further, I believe that working with Thai people in NYC will be a good transition for me before returning to Thailand. With a big shift in applying western thinking into Thai culture, I am gradually drawing on by contextualizing relationship to Thais at here first. Moreover, I am so thankful for being mentored by a professor of theology and anthropology, a missionary with a gracious heart who has lived and ministered in Thailand and Laos for decades. I am also grateful to another mentor who guides and supports me in my learning.

Regarding my internship that starts this summer, I will focus on three main areas of practice and learning: 1) mentoring women in Thai Church, 2) building a leadership team to equip a group of Thai believers to reach out, and 3) observing small group counseling ministries in other churches. I am excited to see how God will work.

It is a great joy to answer his call and a privilege to be a part of our Master's Plan. Our God is a great Master who provides all good things for me to answer his calls. He never owes me. I saw him reimburse all my tsunami project expenses through incredible ways. "Go" and "do" -God is always with us.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Expenses

Scholarship distribution	\$35,500
Field workers award	\$4,000
Office expense	\$253
Total expenses	\$39,753

Assets

Cash	\$69,488
Stock	\$68,599
Mutual Fund	\$357,094
Total funding as of April 30, 2010	\$495,181

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"I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations."—Isaiah 61:10-11

宗旨

為宣教士與宣教學生提供經濟的支持，建立禱告的網絡，
澆灌神的工人，在靈性、身體與經濟上的需要。

心底裏的海嘯

作者是2008及2009年收割者獎學基金得獎學生

對神呼召的回應：

我的名字是「R」。在1972年，我出生於泰國曼谷。在就讀大學期間，於1991年，透過基督校園傳道會的工作人員，認識及接受主耶穌為救贖主。我透過細胞小組，導師，主日學的學習，被裝備成為一個實習小組的領導人。在曼谷的以馬內利浸信會，我學會了與神建立親密的關係。

在2004年南亞海嘯在泰國南部發生以後，我十分同情那些受到海嘯災難影響的人。我曾與一位來自泰國的社區Mahapawn的紐約教會牧師(Achara Achararattanasopon)同工，一起來幫助那些海嘯災民。作為一個義務工作的建築師，我協助修理那些遭到海嘯破壞的房屋，設計和監督避難中心的工程和建設曼谷百平教會的幼兒園。透過與受海嘯災難影響的人分享好消息，和一起同心盼望，我學會了依靠神供應的足夠恩典。因為在泰國南部工作兩年，所以我就開始在2008年春季學期，在宣道神學院進修學習。

神會使用危機救贖和改變破碎的生命。我的事奉方向是對青年人輔導和裝備他們成為為主工作的人，盡量令人與神建立親密的關係，並在生命中活出信仰。我的異象是鼓勵神的子民在生活上行出神的話語，使他們在基督裡成長，並能應付各種問題，服務社會，得以在泰國南部，普遍是未信之民的地方，去傳揚福音和建立教會。

神與我的同在：

對神呼召的回應是一個終身的過程；一步一步的向前走，是神在模造我的生命，成為一個特定目的。因為我生長在非基督教家庭，我從來沒有具體想過神的呼召。我以為只要成為一個真正的基督徒，事業成功，並且愛神已經足夠。我從來不知道祂在我生命中的整個計劃。神從來沒有告訴過我一個程序。我只知道，每次我邁出了第一步，憑著信心和愛心，神會看

顧我，帶領我走向下一步。側耳傾聽神的呼召，需要我們接受自己的過去，明白現在的極限，並履行從前的決定和承諾。我相信，神以不同的人物和事情編織我們的過去，讓這些經歷影響我們的現在。

在2005年，神對我的第一個呼召，是要順服祂的主權。當我個人正在遇上困難的時候，神呼召我離開自己的安樂窩，去看看別人的更大需求，就是讓我去幫助海嘯災民。老實說，我這樣作，其實並非發自內心的善良。我是被牧師鼓勵，預訂用兩個星期的日子，去看看那些受到海嘯災難發生後，整個生活完全受影響的倖存災民。帶著自己的煩惱問題和接受新的挑戰，我往南下去義務工作，懷著信念：「主啊，由你所指定的領導人告訴我當做的任何事情，我都會做。」於是我開始駕駛一輛卡車，在災區進行損毀調查，並提供建築材料給倖存者去重建房屋。我所做的就是聆聽，聆聽他們訴說所受的損失，並與他們一起傷心難過，同時也幫助他們修理房屋。

從與別人一起痛苦難過當中，我學懂領會神的慈愛、謙卑和順服。望看沿著海灘的建築物碎片，我認識到，由人所建造的房子不能持久，就像由我自己所建立的生命道路，也不能持久。當我身處於一個正在復興的社會和生活環境正在緩慢復原的每個人當中，神正在模造我的生命。令人驚訝的是，在幫助別人的同時，我的心靈也被更新。當中有一個影像，我永遠不會忘記，那就是，儘管週圍被海嘯破壞，椰子樹仍然屹立不倒。當巨浪來臨時，許多人都攀登到椰子樹頂部，因而被救。這像是擁抱謙卑，順服基督在我生命作王，不是被折斷，而是要彎腰低頭，接受神的掌權。按照神對我的呼召，我首先讓神掌管我的生命，領我走到有需要的人身邊。

在2007年，神對我的第二個呼召，是要我「去」。當我逗留在那海嘯災區義務工作，有一年多以上，我向神祈禱，期望能進神學院進修學習。神通過一個

標誌，並透過導師和牧師，讓我確信神對我的呼召，也開啟了出國之門。因為需要在一個多元文化的背景下學習，以擴視野，我來到紐約的神學院就讀，進修學習。感謝神！因為在課程第二年得到宣道神院差傳部津貼和收割者基金的獎學金，經濟上我可以負擔到今年的第三年修讀課程。藉著你們的禱告和經濟支持，神賜足夠恩典給我，供應我的需要，讓我踏步向前回應神的呼召。現在，我已經學懂，即使我在不覺得自己已準備好或覺得自己缺乏足夠的資源情況下，我仍然會邁步前行。此外，從導師的榜樣和鼓勵中，我領略到神的信實和堅定不變的愛，鼓勵我走每一步。

我非常享受在這義務工作中，與海嘯災民、與從外國來的志願者、和工作人員相處所得的經驗，特別是能與約二十個教會，非政府組織和基督教團體組成人際網絡。依照牧師和傳教士的模範，我成為青年人和新信徒的導師，鼓勵和輔導他們。兩年的海嘯救災義務工作，在災區實地的修建教會和幼兒園，是非常獨特的和具有挑戰性，也讓我瞭解到教會和差傳、城市和農村傳道的緊張關係。在我修讀神學課程時，我以地人的角度分析研究海嘯災區的教會和觀察泰國人，探如何把泰人神的恩典的需要本色化。

我看到泰國教會參與社區服務，並可作為社會和文化的學苑。當為神作工的僕人出現時，他們將不可避免地需要尋求技能去瞭解人，明白他們的社會經濟文化背景，學懂欣賞幫助人的療效，並建立社區，活出信仰，向人傳福音。因此，我對神呼召的回應，重點是放在裝備現在的年輕人，在生命中活出他們的信仰，並隨時準備做流通管子，作神的潔淨器皿，和傳

授給下一代（以弗所書 4:12）。

我目前正在觀察和嘗試理解神對我的第三個呼召，如何向泰民傳福音。這學期，我有機會加入一個由學生和教授組成的宣教小組，研究泰國民族。在此，我看到了一扇打開的窗戶，正可讓我多點機會接觸到這一群泰民，他們因為正身處紐約的異鄉，更容易讓神的恩典進入內心，生命因而悔改得救。神令我回想起祂在2001年時已經開始編織我生命，領我來到紐約，與泰國教會社區相遇。

此外，我認為與泰民在紐約的相處，是在我回到泰國以前，一個很好的過渡期。將泰國文化加上西方思想，再在生活中應用，是一個很大的轉變，在這裡我逐漸與泰民的系本色化。再者，我非常感謝一位在學校教授神學和人類學的教授的輔導，他幾十年在泰國和金邊居住，是一位熱心事奉的宣教士。我也感謝另一位導師在我學習時給予的指導和支持。

至於我今年夏天開始的實習，我將集中於三個主要的實踐和學習領域：1) 在泰國教會中導婦女，2) 設立一個領導小組，裝備一組泰國籍的信徒去傳福音，以及3) 觀察在其他教會的小組輔導服務事工。我很興奮將可看到神如何作工。

去回應神對我的呼召，令我感到十分快樂，能被神使用，成為祂計劃中的器皿，更是一份特權榮幸。我們的神是一個偉大的主宰，在我向祂呼召的回應過程中，祂供應我一切所需用的。祂從來不欠我什麼。但我看到祂通過令人難以置信的方式，償還我所有在海嘯救災的支出費用。「去」和「做」，神常與我們同在。

財務報告

支出：

獎學金.....	\$ 35,500
宣教士工場獎勵金.....	\$ 4,000
文房開支.....	\$ 253
合計.....	\$ 39,753

資產：

現金.....	\$ 69,488
股票.....	\$ 68,599
基金.....	\$ 357,094
二〇一〇年四月底合計.....	\$ 495,181

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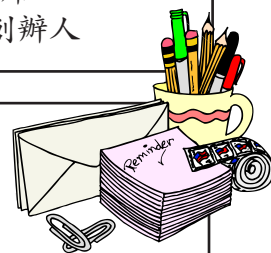
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『我因耶和華大大歡喜；我的心靠神快樂。因他以拯救為衣給我穿上，以公義為袍給我披上，好像新郎戴上華冠，又像新婦佩戴妝飾。田地怎樣使百穀發芽，園子怎樣使所種的發生，主耶和華必照樣使公義和讚美在萬民中發出。』

以賽亞書61:10-11