

## August 2023 Southern Wisconsin Cru Ministry Update

Dear Partners,

Eighteen students, three first-year interns, a schoolteacher, and I hopped on a plane in June to pioneer a new ministry at Thailand's King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok. On most mornings, a few Thai staff would travel through the city to join us on campus as we met students to talk about faith and God. Students ranged from high school freshmen to graduate students pursuing their doctorates. Almost all of them had very little knowledge or understanding of Jesus. Perhaps they could associate Christmas with Christianity. Most had never had a Christian friend or even remembered talking to a Christian.



Our team desired to share the gospel and see people come to Christ. We wanted to build relationships and find people who were spiritually interested. We prayed the Lord would direct us to people who could be future leaders of the ministry on campus and in the city and country. As movements grow in Bangkok, we trust that not only will Thailand be affected, but ministry and laborers would spill over into surrounding countries. Summer missions help us reach college students to reach their nations and the world.

This was our first time in Thailand. We decided last September to redirect our Southern Wisconsin efforts to Thailand after many years of sending to a closed country in East Asia which has already seen lots of national laborers raised up. Thailand has a great need for missionaries with only 1% or so of the population professing to be Christians. Most see themselves as Buddhists, though they would admit that it is much more important for their parents' and grandparents' generations. Yet Thai culture is overtly religious, dotted with temples, Buddha figurines, spirit houses, and superstitious amulets to appease various spirits with hopes of good luck.



Could it be that, despite the challenges of reaching out to Thai students so immersed in their cultural religion, their waning interest might be leaving a hole and angst that many would be open to considering Christ?

That is what I saw with Boom. Ben (a student) and I met Boom studying outdoors one morning on campus and asked if we could talk. Within a few minutes he said he was a Buddhist but didn't feel it was true and really just believed in himself. He felt alone and unknown; his tagline on his social media account was *"The Universe doesn't give a*

*F\*ck about me.*” We spent a good amount of time explaining what we believed as Christians, drawing out some illustrations and highlighting some key Bible verses. Ben explained how the God of the universe knows us and cares for us. Boom was tracking and said he knew this was true. A few minutes later he was praying to receive Christ and saying that he and I were now brothers (in God’s family).

As we were wrapping up, Ben saw a Thai pastor who was joining our group for evangelism and waved him over to meet this new believer. They quickly started conversing in Thai and the pastor talked through his understanding. It was nice to be assured of Boom’s understanding and enthusiasm for his newfound faith.

Through basketball and soccer, and putting together 4th of July and prom parties, as well as initiating simple conversations like this, we built relationships and witnessed to so many students. It’s possible this campus has never had so many gospel conversations in total as it did during this summer. The Good News preached was so new to so many and it is understandable for students to need more time to consider. The last person our team saw indicate a decision for Christ did so at the Bangkok airport as he came with friends to see his new American friends off. Some of the 10 students we met who said “yes” to Jesus during the summer are pictured below with our teammates. Pray more will respond in faith. Beyond that, pray they will in turn reach even more.



Grateful for your partnership in reaching the nations (Matthew 24:14),

*Scott Roe*

**Scott Roe**  
**Southern Wisconsin Cru**



*Most of our Southern Wisconsin Cru staff team and children gathered for a retreat last week to kick off the new school year.*

*P.S. Please remember our team in prayer as we are planning and preparing students, faculty, and volunteers to minister on Southern Wisconsin campuses. Pray that students arriving on campus are open to the gospel and we find good ways to engage them. Pray for new and returning leaders to be wise, bold, and reliant on Christ to step out on campus well and showcase the love of Jesus.*