

## Nan Inta (1804-1882)

Nan Inta was the first baptized Christian convert in northern Thailand, baptized by the Rev. [Daniel McGilvary](#) of the Presbyterian [Laos Mission](#). He taught northern Thai to the missionaries, wrote Christian tracts, and worked as an evangelistic assistant to the missionaries. He was the first ordained northern Thai elder. Nan Inta was born in 1804 in the Sarapee District of present-day Chiang Mai Province, studied for the Buddhist monkhood, and served as the abbot of a temple. He married Chunpeng.

When the McGilvarys, the first foreign missionaries to northern Thailand, arrived in 1867, Nan Inta began to visit them frequently and gained a knowledge of Christianity from them. He resisted conversion, however, until McGilvary correctly predicted a solar eclipse for 17 August 1868, which prediction convinced Nan Inta that traditional Buddhist cosmology was incorrect. He was baptized on 3 January 1869. In September 1869, Nan Inta fled from the persecution of Christians, which took place in Chiang Mai that month. In 1871, he resumed an active Christian life, and in 1873, the Siam Presbytery took him under care for preparation for ordained ministry. On 1 May 1875, First Church, Chiang Mai ordained him an elder, and the following year his wife and children converted to Christianity. In 1878 Nan Inta's daughter, Kham Tip, wanted to marry a young man training for the ministry, but influential relatives insisted the ceremony follow northern Thai animistic traditions. The Laos Mission appealed to the King of Thailand for redress, and the king's viceroy in Chiang Mai issued the so-called "[Edict of Religious Toleration](#)" on 8 October 1878.

On 4 July 1880, the Laos Mission founded the Bethlehem Church in Sarapee District. Nan Inta's family and another family formed the core of this church with Nan Inta serving as the leader and first elder. In May 1882, he moved to the area of the Mae Dok Daeng Church, where he died on 27 August 1882.