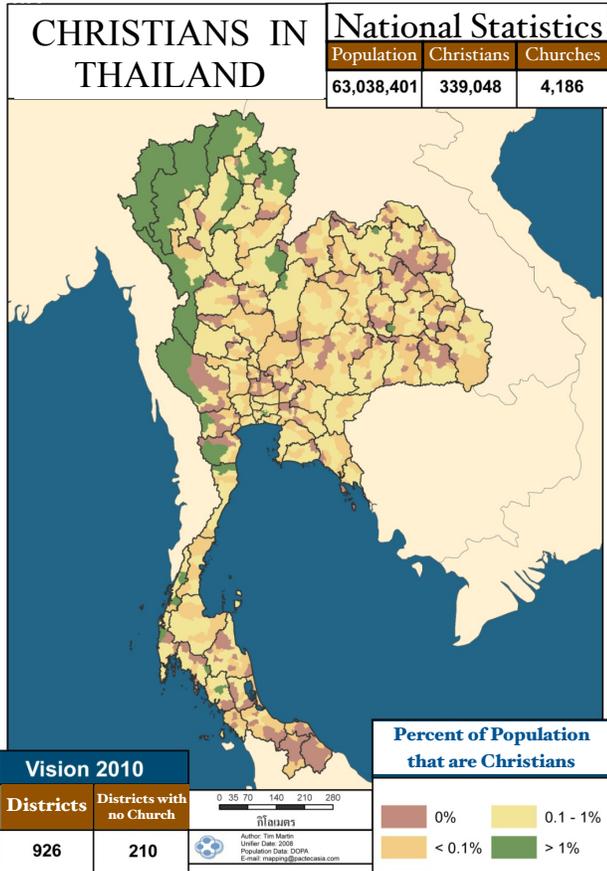


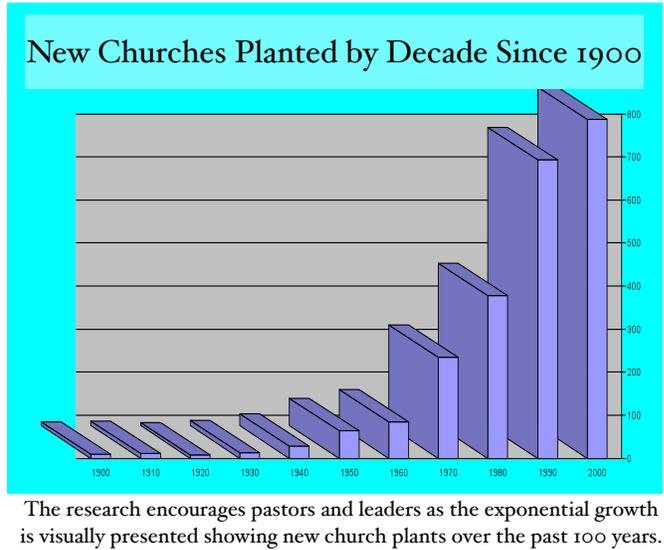


Researching & Mapping to Reach a Nation - Thailand



A Cooperative Effort

The research and mapping began in 2002 when the Thailand Protestant Churches Coordinating Committee appointed an inter-denominational task group called the Thailand Evangelism and Church Growth Committee (TEC) to begin forming a nationwide plan.



In the 182 years since Protestant Christianity was first proclaimed in Thailand, there has never been such a time as this where the moving of the Spirit of God is so evident. There are many reasons for this, and research & mapping has served as an invaluable tool to inform, resource and fuel what seems to be the beginnings of a national movement.

In this nation of 63 million Thais (about the size of France) 93% of the people profess to be Buddhist, 6% adhere to Islam and still less than 1% identify themselves as Christians. However, in the past decade this small body of Thai believers has begun to function like a body that is gaining coordination and strength to advance the Kingdom of God. Like our physical bodies, vital information is received and

transmitted to every part of the body through nerves so we can respond appropriately. In the same way, mapping and research is proving to be critical information to awaken the church to the opportunities and needs throughout Thailand.

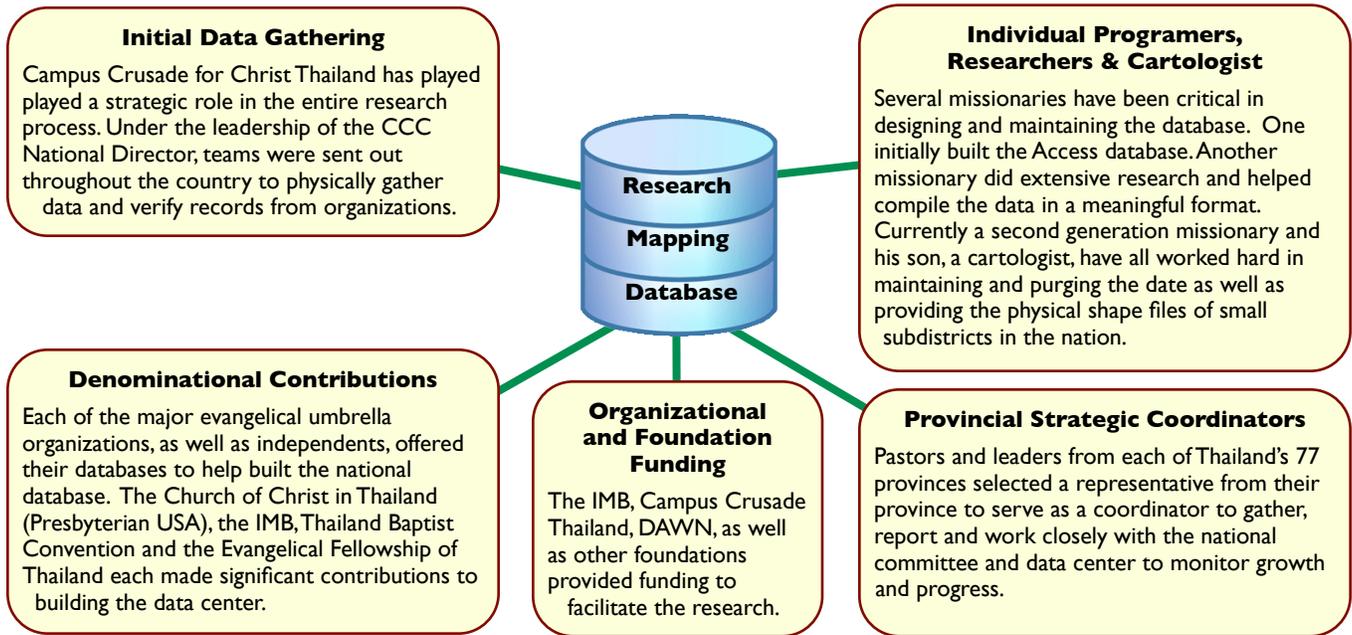
This article will serve to inform and inspire others of the importance, benefits, challenges and basic process in building a national database and resource bank of information to empower national pastors and leaders to reach their nation for the glory of God.



The logo TEC representing the four main evangelical umbrella organizations working together to reach the nation.



THE KEY PLAYERS & COMPONENTS



Critical Information Gained from the Research

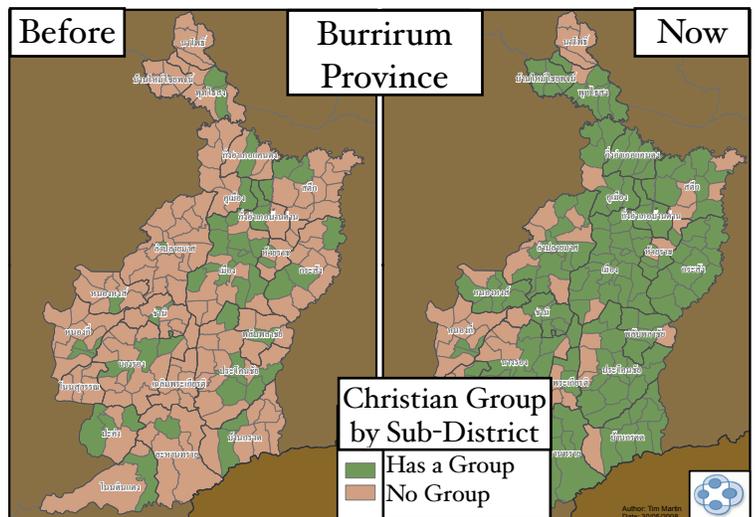
THE RESULTS IN ONE PROVINCE BEFORE AND AFTER

Where We Are: Before you begin planning to accomplish a vision you must know where you are in relation to the goal. The research has given Thai leaders an accurate account of where they are in relation to the goal of reaching the nation.

Where to Put Resources: An enlightening statistic that emerged from the research is that 42% of the total Thai Christian population are tribal and live in the North of Thailand. This helped leaders see the need for reaching the urban people as the tribal people are challenged in moving across the socio-economic barriers to reach city-dwellers.

Strategic Planning: Pastors and leaders can now see on a map the areas in their province that have no church. So instead of everyone planting in the same area, emphasis has been made on adopting unreached areas to saturate the nation with churches and give everyone access to the gospel.

Where God is at Work: As provinces report their progress, it is easy to see where there is cooperation among local pastors to reach their province. **Several provinces have already accomplished the goal** of planting new house churches in every sub-district.



In Thailand there is unprecedented unity among the body of Christ around a common vision to see churches planted in every district (926) and sub-district (7,415) in the country. Relationships, networks and cooperation among national churches, organizations and leaders is stronger than ever before as they work together to accomplish this God-given, God-size vision. Percentage wise, there is a long way to go, but there has been significant progress and momentum toward seeing this vision accomplished.



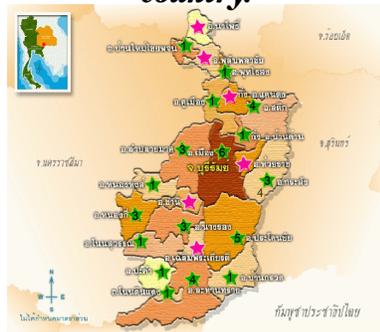
PRAYER, PLANNING & REPORTING BY EACH PROVINCE

Building Relationships & Cooperation

A key aspect of the research project was building relationships and trust across organizational and denominational lines so that each organization would be willing to give their denominational statistics, databases and information. Security has not been an issue in Thailand, so additional population and demographic information was obtained through government agencies. As the information came together the benefits became obvious to everyone that this was in reaching the nation.



Pastors meet by province to adopt unreached areas of the country.



Maps of the entire nation and individual provinces have been developed to show where churches are and what areas have no local church.

Thumbs Up

Because of a lack of accessible resources in Thai, a second generation missionary, developed an e-library of over 4,000 Christian resources including books, national and local maps, songs, training materials and Bible software to make available to pastors and leaders throughout the nation. The Thai Resource Center, also developed an online version www.thaicrc.com so anyone with internet access can instantly download materials for anything from sermon preparation to strategic planning.



	Districts	Sub-Districts
Goals:	926	7,415
Reached:	716	3,907
Remaining:	210	Approx. 3,508

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT

Prayer is taking place throughout the nation as never before as over 70 prayer networks have been formed where pastors and leaders meet monthly to pray together for the nation.

Unity in the Body of Christ throughout the nation is unprecedented. In the 182 years of mission work in Thailand, never before has their been such focused effort toward accomplishing a common goal of planting new churches throughout the nation.



Research has been done and mapping is providing the information that pastors and organizational leaders need to make strategic decisions in where new churches need to be planted.

Evangelism and Training is happening in a national concerted effort. In 2009 over 2,000 churches joined together in the My Hope Thailand project in cooperation with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Assoc. It is a national evangelism training and reaping project which culminated during the Christmas season.



JUST THE BEGINNING It takes more than a decade to reach a nation, but a national effort in Thailand is underway. There is a sense of expectation and excitement in the nation among pastors and leaders as never before. With the continued political and economic crisis it seems that God is working to bring about a national spiritual awakening.



THE CONTEXT

It's difficult to understand the importance of research without recognizing the context in which the research has taken place, the national vision & plan makes the research meaningful. Below is an overview of the chain of events that took place in which it is obvious that God has had His hand on the nation.

1996 - Prayer: The Bless Thailand Network was formed where pastors and leaders began praying across denominational and organizational lines for God to work in the nation.

2002 - Unity: After the South East Asia Congress on Evangelism in Singapore in which over 400 Thai pastors and leaders attended, the Thailand Protestant Churches Coordinating Committee appointed an international task committee called the Thailand Evangelism and Church Growth Committee (TEC), which began a national plan for reaching Thailand.

2003 - Vision Casting & Research: DAWN Ministries met with key leaders to envision them for a national plan as other countries had been doing. They helped provide initial funding to do research to establish the state of the nation. The **Vision 2010** was initiated and the goal was set to see churches planted in every district (926) in Thailand, a Christian group would be established in every subdistrict (7,415) and every village (80,000) would have the opportunity to hear the gospel.

2004 - Catalytic Events: A national congress was held where denominational leaders and pastors signed a covenant to work together to reach the nation for Christ.

Power for Living: Also during this year a nationwide evangelistic media campaign was launched in which almost 3 million Thais responded asking for information on how God could change their life. The impact and fruit of this project is still being reaped today.

2005 - Tsunami: The tsunami hit coastal areas of Thailand in Dec. 2004 killing over 6,000 people creating an urgent opportunity in 2005 for Christians to work together on a common goal.

2006 - National Vision 2010 Conference: Over 300 key pastors and leaders gathered to examine the initial research, introduce the four tracks of the national plan and to begin planning for strategic initiatives to impact the country.

2007 - Regional Conference and Strategic Coordinators: In 2007 the TEC team took the vision to each of Thailand's five regions gathering leaders, updating data and appointing strategic coordinators for each province who serve as key people with whom the national leaders can work.

2008 - Strategic Coordinators Meetings:

Throughout 2008 provincial SC's met in Bangkok three times for Inspiration, Information, Improvement and Implementation meetings. Also 18 national leaders travel together to attend the Call2All Conference in the U.S.

2009 - National Congress: In addition to the regular SC meetings, TEC Committee coordinated a historic nationwide Congress where over 3,600 pastors and leaders attended to be inspired, challenged and empowered to proclaim Christ throughout the nation and plant churches in unreached areas in Thailand.



My Hope Thailand Project: In cooperation with the Vision 2010, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association TEC trained over 40,000 Thai Christians in personal evangelism through the My Hope Project. Over 12,000 Thais came to Christ, infusing the church with faith that the nation can be reached.

2010 - The Vision Continues to 2020: Now the vision and momentum to reach Thailand continues as leaders are now planning to continue the vision through 2020. There have been great successes in unity, prayer, evangelism and church planting.

The research and mapping have served to inform and inspire leaders on what God is doing and where resources are needed to continue progressing toward the goal of reaching the nation for the glory of God.