

Hello!

We're Brian and Margaret Burton. Renewal Christian Centre holds a very special place in our hearts with close friends always ready to welcome us on our UK visits. Originally from the West Midlands, we followed God's calling on our lives and moved to Thailand 20 years ago. Our first year there was spent in language study in Bangkok, and then we felt God leading us south of the country to the island of Phuket, where we've been ever since.

We pioneered a church, Phuket Christian Centre, which we have seen God bless and grow, with a congregation that has over the years impacted people from over 17 different nations. As well as this, we have several church plants in the neighbouring state of Phang Nga about 3 hours drive onto the mainland from Phuket.

We have a great vision from God, and believe that as a church we will not only impact this nation for Christ, but will affect the surrounding nations as we reach out with the transformational gospel of the Kingdom of God. For example, after Typhoon Nargis which hit Burma last year, we had the opportunity to go into that devastated area to help rebuild houses and churches which had been damaged. Our Burmese pastor has family and contacts there who assisted in helping oversee the building projects, and was, himself, able to go in and out freely to develop a mentoring relationship with a number of Burmese churches.

Following the Tsunami of 2004 we were involved in helping tourists who had lost families in the disaster, and also worked in the many refugee camps all along the coastal areas helping the Thai people who had been affected by the disaster. Many people responded to our worldwide appeal, which led to us being able to rebuild 2 schools, one in Kamala here in Phuket and the other in Thai Muang on the mainland. We want to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Renewal Christian Centre who very generously gave and supported us, both financially and prayerfully, during this time. Pastor Peter was the first one to come out and offer his help and support. He worked tirelessly with us and for us during that time, on ground level here in Phuket and also helping to raise funds back in the UK.

Our work during the Tsunami led us to the Morgan people, whose island had been completely washed over by the wave. We praise God that the whole village turned to Christ as a result of our help, and we now have a thriving church on their island, which is visited every week. The King of Thailand even praised the Church for its work following the disaster, and later that year Brian was awarded by His Majesty the highest honour any pastor or church has received.

During the past year we found a group of people who were squatting in the remains of emergency housing built at the Tsunami refugee camp of Baan Nam Khem. This was the largest camp set up, and again with Pastor Peter's help, together with our dear friend, John Wildrienne, who passed away early last year, we ministered there regularly to over

5,000 people. Five years later there are still people in this camp who have not been helped or re-housed – 28 families in all – living in very poor conditions. PCC has been able to rent an acre of land large enough to build houses for all the families plus a church, as most of these people have already come to know Jesus as their Saviour. Phase One of this project has been completed due to help from our congregation and donations received from friends and churches overseas. We are hoping to begin Phase Two of this project as soon as possible for house improvements, drainage, etc. Please trust God with us that funds will soon become available for us to further help these dear people.

Another group of people we work closely with are the Urak Rawoi, a sea gypsy group, living by the coast here in Phuket. With the help of Renewal Christian Centre we've been able to purchase boats to help this group of people become self-sufficient and maintain a better lifestyle for themselves. We meet regularly with them once a week, and they're often seen in church on Sunday wearing their Wolves shirts – kindly donated by Brian's football team – Wolverhampton Wanderers!

Also, following the Tsunami of 2004, we were able to build Sussex House, our children's home, with funds raised by John Wildrienne and the British Police Force. Both he and Pastor Peter came to Phuket for the opening. We currently have 10 children, ages 6 to 21 years. It is encouraging to see these young people in church every Sunday, taking part in the worship service and having opportunities that they otherwise may not have had. Our first girl, Lek, who was supported by Renewal graduated from the International Bible Training Institute in Sussex last summer, and this summer sees another young man from PCC, Alex, graduate.

Brian and Margaret are also involved in Harvest Evangelism, headed up by Rev Ed Silviso the founder and president. This has led to many ministry opportunities in Asia preaching and teaching on nation transformation, and also being a part of the International Institute on Nation Transformation conferences.

We would like to thank you for all the support, both prayerfully and financially, that you have given to us over these past few years. Thank you for your friendship and fellowship and for standing with us, we do appreciate your partnership and know that together we can truly make a difference in this nation. Praise God for His faithfulness! All the fruit we see is also a tribute to your faithfulness and belief in what we are doing to bless people, minister peace into their lives and situations, and give them the best possible opportunity to find Jesus as their answer. There is still so much to do. We value your continued partnership.

God bless you!

Brian and Margaret Burton
Phuket Christian Centre