



# Helping Hill Tribe Children in Thailand

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## Welcome!

Covenant World Mission is pleased to send you the **2013 Vacation Bible School (VBS)** Mission Project. The following materials are meant to be supplemental aids to your program. Please feel free to pick and choose the information and activities that best fit your program and format.

This year's project will help children at the Tutorial Learning Center (TLC) in Baw Klua, Thailand, through The Sustainable Development Research Foundation (SDRF). This area in northern Thailand is one of the most marginalized and isolated areas in the country. It is comprised of a number of hill tribe communities whose life is difficult and where the people are very poor. The educational opportunities are very limited and lacking. Children often don't attend school beyond 6<sup>th</sup> grade and get stuck in a cycle where life offers very few choices beyond how they live today. The children here are at risk because of these factors and eventually find their way into sweatshops as child laborers or in the human trafficking industry to help support their families. This is not God's plan for His children in the world.

The Tutorial Learning Center under SDRF is seeking to provide holistic help and hope for the children of Baw Klua, Thailand. The Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) has partnered with SDRF for this year's VBS project to do this in the love of Jesus Christ and for His glory.

Scripture tells us what real love is in I John 3:16-18 (NIV).

*"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."*

You and your children can make a difference and intervene to provide holistic hope and help in partnership with the Tutorial Learning Center.

This information, as well as other resources, can be found at Covenant World Mission's webpage at [CovChurch.org/mission](http://CovChurch.org/mission). Click on "Projects" then "VBS Project 2013". There you will find supplemental pictures, video clips, links to resources, and more!

THANK YOU for being part of this VBS project and partnering with TLC to bring the love and hope of Jesus Christ and the prospect of a better future for these children in Baw Klua, Thailand.



## **Packet Contents**

In this packet you will find information on:

- The Sustainable Development Research Foundation (SDRF)
- The Tutorial Learning Center – it's purpose and ministry
- Description and Project Goals
- Daily Lessons and Activities
- Other Resources



## The Sustainable Development Research Foundation (SDRF)

The Sustainable Development Research Foundation (SDRF) is recognized by the Thai government as a non-profit organization that has been officially approved by them, with headquarters in Udon Thani, Thailand. It is the legal umbrella that unites a number of organizations which it has set up in Thailand. Here is how SDRF is serving in Thailand: the Isan Aquatics Farm in Udon (IAF); the Leadership Development Center (LDC) also in Udon; the Phil Keillor Marine Research Institute (PKMRI) on Kho Yao island in south Thailand; the Center for HIV/AIDS Affected Persons (CHAC) also in south Thailand; the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) in Nan; and the Tutorial Learning Center (TLC) also in Nan.

A number of years ago the SDRF set up the Center for Applied Ministry (CAM) in Udon. It is an organization that addresses church leadership and development as the church grows and expands in response to the holistic ministry of the SDRF around the country. CAM is a member of the Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand. During the past years, the SDRF has expanded its work into all four major geographical regions of Thailand and has foundation branches established in Phung Nga province (south Thailand) and Bangkok (central Thailand) and Nan province (north Thailand) in addition to its headquarters in Udon Thani (northeast Thailand).

Under the leadership of its president, Mrs. Nujon Singpila, the SDRF has developed a network of projects throughout all four regions of Thailand to address the needs of *at-risk* communities in those regions:

**Northeast (Isan):** The head office of the SDRF is in Udon Thani Thailand. The foundation has established the Isan Aquatics Farm as an agri-business “profit center” with the objective of using its profits as an economic support base for the SDRF and its product, tilapia fry, as a resource for development projects in the area. The Church Leadership Development Center, in Udon, focuses on the development of church leaders in the Northern Thailand and Laos area.

**North (Nan province):** The SDRF has established The Center for Sustainable Development in Baw Klua district of Nan province. The CSD addresses a number of issues that are key for at-risk communities in the area including agricultural development, public health development, and vocational training for rural communities. The SDRF is also addressing the lack of educational resources in the area – it has started the Tutorial Learning Center (TLC) a tutoring school for marginalized youth of the area (which enables students to complete high school and go on to university and jobs in other parts of Thailand). The SDRF is partnered with the Sawa Tai Middle School which is located just down the road from the CSD. The TLC and the Sawa Tai Middle School have a mutual interest in enabling the youth of the area to finish their studies up through high school. The SDRF has also constructed the Andry Middle School, Baw

Yuak, in the sub-district of Baw Yuak, which is located in a very marginalized area of Nan province. The CSD is also the center of leadership development for an expanding group of churches that are spreading throughout this marginalized northern area.

**South (Phung Nga and Songkhla provinces):** The SDRF has established a branch office in Phung Nga province, at the request of the provincial Fisheries Department and the local community leadership committee of Koh Yao Island just off Phuket. In cooperation with the same groups, the SDRF has established the Phil Keillor Marine Research Institute (PKMRI) on Kho Yao Island to address three objectives by breeding/nursing spiny lobsters and varieties of grouper fish and sea bass from the local waters. These objectives are:

- **environmental** (release of fry in the ocean waters);
- **developmental** (enablement of at risk fishing communities to farm fish and lobsters);
- and an **economic support** base for the SDRF.

The SDRF is also addressing the needs of HIV/AIDS infected communities in seven provinces of south Thailand. The foundation has established The Center for HIV/AIDS Affected Communities (CHAC) for at-risk communities in the south in Songkhla Province. The center is staffed by lay leaders in the HIV/AIDS communities and reaches into nine provinces of south Thailand to enable local HIV/AIDS support groups to meet the needs of HIV/AIDS infected people in their areas. The SDRF is currently beginning a project – CHAC Fish Farm (CFF) that will address the livelihoods of HIV/AIDS communities and the operational costs of CHAC as it continues to expand throughout south Thailand. Most importantly many in these at-risk and HIV/AIDS-affected communities have come to faith in Christ through their relationships with SDRF.

## The Tutorial Learning Center – It's Purpose and Ministry

The Tutorial Learning Center (TLC) is one organization under the Sustainable Development Research Foundation. It is an educational preparatory center for at-risk children in Baw Klua, Thailand.

TLC Director, Khru Chan Singkeo, and his wife Phon, are committed to serving the children and hill tribe communities holistically in the name of Jesus Christ. Khru Chan and Phom live at TLC with approximately sixteen children, ranging in



age from nine to sixteen years old. They serve among the children in many ways to positively empower them for the future, for their life in the communities they come from, and also their life in Christ.

Following are some of the holistic ways in which TLC is impacting the lives of the children and the village communities it serves.

- Providing a safe place for children to live who cannot travel back and forth to their villages each day to attend the local public school because of distance and inadequate roads and transportation. = COMPASSION
- Teaching the children to value their ethnic background even though others may look down upon them because they belong to a hill tribe people group. = VALUE
- Tutoring the children with schoolwork and teaching English to improve their school results and increase their chances of going onto higher levels of education beyond 6<sup>th</sup> grade. = HOPE
- Teaching skills such as cooking, washing clothes, caring for their personal hygiene, their health, and the few possessions they have. = RESPONSIBILITY & STEWARDSHIP
- Teaching things like planting and experimenting with different varieties of food for increased hardiness and nutritional value. = PERSEVERANCE
- Teaching the end-to-end process of planning, building, daily care, processing, marketing and selling, all as part of what they do in raising crickets and chickens, vegetable gardening, and growing multiple varieties of rice. = GROWTH
- Teaching God's word and worshipping God together. = TRUTH & WISDOM
- Teaching the children how to apply God's word in daily living. = OBEDIENCE
- Partnering with parents, local schools and government agencies to build relationships that build up the village communities. = LIGHT & SALT

- Most importantly, giving tremendous love to these children, many of whom come from families that are lacking in love, are dysfunctional and broken and for some who are orphans. = LOVE

Khru Chan is a passionate, gentle-spirited pastor who has reached many for Christ through his love, mercy and compassion for people in the hill tribe communities. God is using his many gifts, along with his wife, to bring hope and understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

## Description and Project Goals

In Baw Klua, Thailand, life is not about choice, it's often about survival! In the United States and Canada, life is all about choices, and is filled with them every day for our children.

This year's VBS project seeks to raise support and awareness that enables the Tutorial Learning Center in Baw Klua, Thailand to break the cycle of poverty and mere survival in this area of Thailand. Its desire is to provide holistic hope and help in a number of ways that leads to more meaningful and better choices in life beyond what the children know today to sustain life.

The children at Tutorial Learning Center (TLC) and the hill tribe communities they come from will receive the greatest benefit and blessing from this project. Why? Each new generation has a new day to make a difference and make things better for their families and communities. Investing in the children at Tutorial Learning Center (TLC) today has the absolute potential to change life positively for them and their village communities.

At the end of the day, it's about being humble, showing mercy, compassion, and justice in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and loving as Gods commands.

Micah 6:8 NIV

*"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

### Goals of the Project:

Our hope for the children who attend VBS:

- They catch a vision of God's great love for the children in Baw Klua, Thailand and for themselves.
- They experience Jesus' love in action through this project.
- They gain an awareness of what life is like for children their age halfway around the world in another country and culture.

Our hope for the children at the Tutorial Learning Center:

- They experience the reality that many children in another part of the world care about them and want them to have a better life.
- They experience Jesus' love for them in a real and tangible way that is significant to their faith in Christ.
- Though they may not be able to give back in material ways, they can pray for those who are blessing them as members of the body of Christ.

Our hope for all of the children:

- To have an increased understanding of the family of God and how together we serve holistically to meet the needs of each other and become obedient to the word of God.

Finally, our hope is the funds raised during VBS will provide the financial means to:

- Provide financial scholarships for TLC for those who desire to be at TLC.
- Expand the TLC facilities to offer more children an opportunity to be part of this community.
- Provide new computers and books to improve skills and increase knowledge.
- Expand existing TLC agriculture projects for vegetable gardening and rice farming.
- Expand existing TLC projects of raising crickets and chickens (an important source of protein in their diets).
- Open new facilities that offer training of new skills such as computers, mechanics, hairdressing or other technical trades.

### **Costs:**

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| • Financial scholarships for students              | \$45 per month/per student |
| • Facility expansion (complete new TLC building)   | \$5,000                    |
| • Computers for lab – Goal 20 computers            | \$586 per computer         |
| • Bookcases for library – Goal: 5 bookcases        | \$190 per bookcase         |
| • Books for study (1 set = 50 books) Goal: 10 sets | \$180 per set              |
| • Gardening Tools – Goal: 10 sets                  | \$35 per set               |
| • Double tier cricket condo                        | \$100                      |
| • Incubator for chickens                           | \$600                      |
| • Generator (back up system)                       | \$1000                     |
| • Netting for crickets (hundreds of rolls needed)  | \$13 each                  |

### **Donations may be sent to:**

Covenant World Mission  
8303 W. Higgins Rd.  
Chicago, IL 60631

Please note on the memo line:  
VBS 2013 – Thailand Tutorial Learning Center

For questions or more information contact Covenant World Mission by email at [world.mission@covchurch.org](mailto:world.mission@covchurch.org) or by phone at 773-784-3000.

## DAY 1: What Does It Mean To Be A Hill Tribe Child?

This week we are going to learn about children from the Lua hill tribe communities in northern Thailand and about the Tutorial Learning Center (TLC) in Baw Klua. You'll learn how the Tutorial Learning Center (TLC) is making a difference in the children's lives for a better future and how you can make a difference too.

- Does anyone know what a hill tribe is?
- How do you think their life is different from yours?

A **hill tribe** is a word used to describe the various tribal peoples who migrated from Laos and other countries over the past few centuries into Thailand. There are six major hill tribe peoples within Thailand each with a distinct language and culture. They live in the hills and mountains of north Thailand and are very poor, have limited education, and few choices for a good life. They are considered a lower people by other people because of this. Life is very hard for these people and they are often ashamed of who they are as a people group. This week we will learn more about the Lua hill tribe people and children and how we can help make a positive difference in their lives.

### Ask:

- Did God create all people?
- Do you think He loves everyone the same, or some people more than others?

People are uniquely created in the image of God and have inherent worth and dignity. We know that He loves everyone. We know this because He sent His son Jesus to earth to give His life for everyone so that one day we can be with him in heaven forever. He didn't do this just for certain people. He did it for everyone! Isn't that so good to know?



### Activities for this lesson:

- Show the Introduction Video 1 to the children.
- Teach the mission song for the week. Children can practice and sing the song every day as part of the mission focus.
- Provide a map of the world showing where you are and where Thailand is found.

- Provide a more detailed map of Thailand to show where Baw Klua is and where the Lua people live that are the beneficiaries of this project.
- Provide a hands-on activity or experience that is reflective of Thailand.
- Thank God for the many opportunities that children have in the US and Canada.
- Thank God for the Tutorial Learning Center and what it is doing to positively impact the hill tribe children and give them new opportunities.

To find all resources noted above go to [CovChurch.org/mission](http://CovChurch.org/mission). Click on “Projects” then “VBS Project”.

- Pray for more new opportunities for the hill tribe children that they don’t have today.

### **Set the offering goal for the week:**

This week our VBS will try to raise \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the children at the Tutorial Learning Center. This money will provide the children with new opportunities to learn and grow and have a better life and potentially live out their dreams.

Ask the children for their ideas on how to raise money first. Then offer your own ideas. See resources for ideas.

Ask if anyone has money they would like to give to the mission offering?

### **Pray**

End your time by praying for the children attending VBS and for the hill tribe children. Some prayer requests may be:

- Thank God for His great love for all people and all children no matter where they are in the world.

## Day 2: The Tutorial Learning Center (TLC) Children

Tell the story of a few children first by sharing the information below. Then do the “Ask” questions. Follow this up with the video of most of the children presently at TLC. Together, this will give the children a sense of who the children are, their age, what they want to be when they grow up and what they are learning at TLC.



**Bennid**, his nickname, is 16 years old. He is a Lua hill tribe child. He is the child of a farmer. His parents are divorced and he lives with his grandmother when not at TLC. He is in the eighth grade at Sawa Tai School. He is one of the older children at TLC. Like all the children at TLC, he has before and after school responsibilities including household duties, working on agricultural projects, and participating in evening tutorials for computer literacy and English language. He loves sports, especially soccer. His favorite color is black. He likes to eat salad and any dessert with lemon. When he grows up he wants to be a teacher. He is learning through TLC, “with God He can change everything.”

**Her nickname is “Oil”** and she is 12 years old. She is a Lua hill tribe child and also the daughter of a farmer. Her parents are still married but drink a lot and fight a lot. She lives with her parents when not at TLC but her home life is not a happy one. She is in the sixth grade at Sawa Tai School. Like Bennid, she also has the same before and after school responsibilities. She loves to play with her friends and read books and loves all kinds of music. Her favorite color is blue. She likes to eat papaya salad and roasted chicken and Sampam for dessert. When she grows up she wants to be a policewoman or a teacher. She is learning through TLC, “a relationship with God means living and working together, sharing and forgiving.”



**Ask:**

- What do you want to be when you grow up?
- Do you think it is hard for the hill tribe children to be what they want to be when they grow up? Why? What did we learn yesterday about the hill tribe people?
- How will staying in school and learning new things at TLC help the hill tribe children to be what they want to be when they grow up and change their communities for the better? What about you?

**Activities for this lesson:**

- Show TLC Children video 2
- Sing the mission song.
- Provide a hands-on activity or experience that is reflective of Thailand.

To find all resources noted above go to [CovChurch.org/mission](http://CovChurch.org/mission). Click on "Projects" then "VBS Project".

**VBS Goal Reminder**

**Ask** if anyone wants to give to the mission offering and if anyone would like to share how he or she raised the money.

**Show (if you've created a visual) or Tell** the children how much was raised collectively the first day and if you know what your class raised alone.

**Pray:**

- Pray for all of the children in the hill tribe communities, the U.S. Canada and around the world that they have a need to know Jesus as their Savior.
- Pray for the children currently at TLC and VBS that they would have courage in Jesus to do what they need to do to be what they want when they grow up for the glory of God.

## Day 3: Loving God's Way

The past few days you've learned about the children at TLC and the Lua hill tribe communities in Thailand. Being poor means more than just not having food or a nice house. It means not having God in your life and the hope that comes from knowing God. It means not having choices because you don't have money or opportunity for education. It often means sadness and fear because others look down upon you because of what you might look like or perhaps where your family comes from. For many, it can mean day after day of sadness and struggle. God wants us as his children to love others as he loves us.

**Read** the following parable of the sheep and goats from Matthew 25:31-40 to help the children better understand how they can love people God's way and in very simple ways.

**31** *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.*

**34** *"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger*

*and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*

**37** *"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?*

**39** *When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'*

**40** *"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

### Ask

- What is really hard for you to do every day?
- How would you like to do that day after day without any help?
- From the Bible story, how do you think God wants you to love others who are poor in so many ways like the Lua hill tribe people?

### Activities for this lesson:

- Do an activity or play a game that requires them to help another person in a very simple way. See resources for ideas.
- Sing the mission song.

- Provide a hands-on activity or experience reflective of Thailand. See resources for ideas.

### VBS Goal Reminder

**Ask** if anyone has a gift for the mission offering and if anyone would like to share how he or she raised the money.

**Show (if you've created a visual), or tell** the children how much has been raised so far. If you know what your class raised alone tell them and remind them they have two more days of VBS to give.

The children may have other ideas of how they can help the children at the Tutorial Learning Center. Ask them because they may have ideas that we as adults have not considered. However, be cautious about material good sending for the reasons below.

Encourage thinking about how they can show the love of Christ and remind them of the people around them every day that also may need their help.

- When we send things to other countries, ministries in the country can usually purchase the items at a lower cost.
- Buying in country can provide jobs for people maybe even for some of the hill tribe children's parents and also make an investment in the community.
- Shipping expenses and embargo are very expensive and outweigh the benefit of sending the

material good.

- It is always a good idea to send monetary donations rather than actual goods.

### Pray:

- Pray for all of the children in the hill tribe communities and in our Covenant churches to be examples of God's love each day.
- Pray that we would see as Jesus sees those in need and then do what is needed as the Bible tells us.
- Pray the TLC children and our children will experience God's joy in their lives despite their circumstances, good and challenging.

## Day 4: TLC Making a Difference!

Today you'll learn how TLC is helping the children to give them new skills, hope, and a better life. The money you give each day will help TLC to do this. This means you are making a difference too!

TLC:

- Provides a safe place for the children to live during the week so they can go to school each day. Some children live a 2-hour walk to school and the roads are dirt roads making it hard for cars to bring them back and forth each day. This means the children don't see their mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters each day like many of you do.
- Teaches the children to value their Lua hill tribe heritage even though others may look down upon them as a hill tribe people group.
- Tutors the children with schoolwork and English to improve their school results and increase their chances of going onto higher levels of education beyond 6<sup>th</sup> grade..
- Teaches the children to have courage and compete in school competitions even though they don't always win first place.
- Teaches the children how to cook, wash clothes, care for their bodies, their health, and the few things they have.
- Teaches the children to plant gardens, rice and experiment

with different kinds of food that are better for them.

- Teaches the children all of the steps of planning, building, daily care, processing, marketing and selling of their gardening, rice, cricket and chicken projects.
- Teaches the children how to raise crickets and chickens as a source of protein.
- Teaches the children God's word, how to obey it and worship God together.
- Most importantly, TLC gives the children tremendous love because they come from families that lack love, are broken and for some who have no parents.
- Show TLC Video 3



### Ask

- What are some different things they are learning than you?
- What difference do you think this makes in their lives?
- Why is this important?

**Activities for this lesson:**

- Sing the mission song.
- Provide a hands-on activity or experience reflective of Thailand.

**VBS Goal Reminder**

**Ask** if anyone has any money for the mission offering and if anyone would like to share how he or she raised the money.

**Show (if you've created a visual), or tell** the children how much has been raised so far. If you know what your class raised alone tell them and remind them they have one more day of VBS to give.

**Pray:**

- Pray that all of the children at TLC and that VBS children will use what they learn to make a better life for themselves and their villages and communities.
- Thank God for all he has blessed us with.

## Day 5: God's Wonderful Family Around the World!

### Read 1 John 3:1a

*"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"*

### Read John 15:12

*"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."*

Today, we want you to know that God loves you so much that he sent his only son Jesus to die for you so that you can become a child of his. That was very hard for him to do but because he loves you so much, he did it!

Like many of you who have received Jesus into your heart as Savior, some of the children in Baw Klua have asked Jesus into their hearts. This means that you are ALL children of God because of God's great love for you. This means you are part of the family of God. Isn't that wonderful!

### Ask

- Who are the children in your family?
- Who are the children in the family of God?
- How does God want us to love each other?
- What does that mean?

Give the children an opportunity to receive Jesus as Savior if they have never done it before. You and your team should consider how you would like to do this before this time.

### Give an invitation to receive Jesus as Savior to become Children of God.

### Activities for this lesson:

- Sing the mission song.
- Provide a hands-on activity or experience reflective of Thailand.

### Pray:

- Pray for children who received Jesus as their Savior who are now part of God's family as his children.
- Thank God for what you have learned about God and his great love.
- Pray for all God's children around the world.

### VBS Goal Reminder

**Ask** if anyone has any gifts for the mission offering.

**Closing:**

This week you've learned so much about God, the Lua hill tribe communities and the children at TLC in Baw Klua, Thailand. We hope you've also learned something new about yourself and your love for God and others. Take all that you have learned and love others as God loves you wherever you are.

Thank you for giving so generously to the children at TLC to make a big difference in their lives.

Have a fun and safe summer!