

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Faith

Esther Lim Si Xiu

Age 36, Christian Ministry Staff

As part of AMC Missions Month 2023, we bring to you inspiring stories of church members who have answered the call to share God's love with the nations.



Esther (far right) with her Grade 10 students in Chiang Rai. She took a year off work to teach Chemistry at an international school.



Fresh out of university, Esther served for a month in Chiang Rai, where she had the opportunity to reach out to Thai students.

A Teacher's Love for Thailand

My first mission experience at 16 years old left a deep impact on me.

I spent a week in Chiang Rai on a trip organised by Hakka Methodist Church, which is the church I grew up in.

On that Sunday in Dec 2000, after I was asked to give a testimony in a village church, about how I became a Christian, I felt God's presence moving me to tears.

While weeping for one hour, I sensed a call to serve in Thailand, so I responded by dedicating my life to God, telling Him that I wanted to be His vessel to share His love in this country.

However, as a single, young lady, I felt apprehensive about going back to Thailand on my own. Hence I studied basic Thai in university to equip myself with language skills.

TESTIMONY BY ESTHER LIM



Esther with a fellow teacher Jan, who became her good friend during her one-year teaching stint in Chiang Rai.



Esther was moved when she saw how the local teachers and students heard about God's love for the first time during her school's Christmas outreach programme.

After graduating, I also signed up for OMF Singapore's STEPS camp. The camp answered many of my questions, such as how to discern God's calling in my life and how I could continue to equip myself even if I'm based in Singapore.

The mentoring sessions with the full-time missionaries also helped to reaffirm my decision to take small steps to explore a longer-term mission trip, so I signed up for Serve Asia, OMF's mission discipleship programme.

As part of Serve Asia, I spent a month in Chiang Rai, where I got to "shadow" a Singapore missionary family serving in a village. That experience helped me greatly in immersing myself in the Thai culture and learning the language.

More recently, I took a bigger step of faith to go back to Thailand to explore a longer-term mission experience.

For one academic year (August 2019 to June 2020), I taught Chemistry to the Grade 10 students at Chiang Rai International Christian School, which also gave me the opportunity to reach out to those who were non-believers.

TESTIMONY BY ESTHER LIM

Through daily interactions with the students, I came to understand the Thai culture and their beliefs even more. I also had the opportunity to share the gospel through an evangelistic Christmas event that year.

As a teacher, I've learnt that as I steward the vocational calling that God has given, He can use me as His vessel in ways that I can never imagine.

God is always faithful — even in a foreign land.

Even though I had fears of going for a longer mission trip on my own, He never failed to send people to journey alongside and be my prayer warriors.

Now that I'm married, I'm also exploring to go to Thailand for long-term missions together with my husband in the future.

But while I'm still here in Singapore, I'm taking active steps to be further equipped in sharing the gospel.

It's more blessed to give than to receive. Take that step of faith to explore missions, and you'll be surprised at how you'll be able to witness God's amazing love and providence first-hand.



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Stay tuned for more!