



# Rob & Judy Griffioen



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## Chiang Mai Interlude

Judy and I have settled into Chiang Mai and are doing well. Our home is a quiet place, well out of town with rice paddies all around. We feel like it is an oasis, a special place to enjoy God's presence and each other's company while seeking His will for the future. To help facilitate this, we are being resourced at a place called "The Well." We are in a good place to reset and refocus at this point in our journey.

## WHAT WE ARE DOING NOW

★ In late December, while preparing to engage the resourcing process in Chiang Mai, Rob was asked to step in to be the Interim Associate Director of *The Garden of Hope*. *The Garden of Hope* is an evangelical ministry that focuses on working with women and children at risk of sexual exploitation and human-trafficking in SE Asia. This ministry faced a leadership crisis because, for personal reasons, the former director had to suddenly return to North America. The timing of our arrival in Chiang Mai made it possible for us to step in and help, albeit in a limited way. We need to affirm that we have not left MBMSI to do this; this is only part of what we are doing while being resourced in Chiang Mai, and it is on an interim basis. Our decision to take on this opportunity was done with the agreement of our leaders at MBMSI. We strongly sense that this "divine appointment" will only help to better equip us for ministry with MBMSI in Thailand.

Here are some other activities we've been involved in recently:

- ❖ A Thai couple from an MB church in Thailand was sent to Chiang Mai for intensive relational intervention. Though we were not the official counsellors, we were asked to help disciple them in this process. It turned out to be of benefit to us too: they became our Thai language helpers as we guided them through biblical teaching on the makings of a godly marriage.
- ❖ Recently, Judy took part in a seminar on ministering to abused children. It was a real

stretch for her as it was all in Thai but she really enjoyed the challenge and learned so much. We remain confident that, as it has been in the past, ministry to kids will be in Judy's future!

- ❖ Judy is doing well in her own process of healing. God has provided a very good counsellor for her. While she is doing this, Rob is also being similarly resourced at *The Well*.
- ❖ We have also visited a number of churches and are grateful to have made several new friends in Chiang Mai.

**Like farmers planting rice, we are also learning to be patient. God has been teaching us to lean in more-and-more in prayer during this "INTERLUDE."**

- ✓ **Please pray** that our hearts tune to God's direction during this time of change. Though we may not be in Chiang Mai long-term, we sense that the LORD is preparing us for something amazing in the not-too-distant future.
- ✓ **Please pray** for the *Garden of Hope's* ministry to women and children at risk and the leadership needs there. There are precious few organizations like this that are successful in working with such "at risk" women & children.
- ✓ **Please pray** for the Thai couple experiencing relational problems mentioned above. Pray that God would continue to draw them into His truth and fully heal their relationship.
- ✓ **Please pray** for complete healing in Judy's back. She's had much pain in her lower lumbar region for over a month and this has really limited her mobility.