

HOEFLE-MAGAL



Joel Hoefle & Patricia Magal

THAILAND

LANGUAGES

Thai
English

MINISTRY PRIORITIES

Peace and Justice,
Training and Capacity
Building

BIRTHDAYS

Joel 11/24
Trish 6/4



LOCATION

Thailand



ABOUT

Joel and Trish are development workers serving in Thailand and Myanmar. Trish is developing an approach for empowering people to relate to one another in a more authentic way in a cultural context. She teaches English, exercise, music, dance, and drama to women at the New Life Center Foundation in Chiang Rai, Thailand.

Joel develops tools and methodologies for building greater trust and understanding and reducing conflict within civil society. Joel and Trish work through Hope International and are jointly appointed by IM. They are the first IM global servants to work in Myanmar since 1965.



The artist Mecaricate posted this picture and wrote: "God is the answer of life and is human breath. We never have a day that God does not take care of."



MINISTRY STORY

When we first met this 18-year-old girl over a cup of coffee, she just needed someone to listen. She told us about how her parents were pressuring her to stop studying and to find work instead. Her father had a contact for a job in southern Thailand where she would be a nanny and housekeeper for a family. She had never met this prospective employer, and she wanted to stay in school, but she felt that she had no choice.

A week later, she traveled to meet the family, but once she arrived, she learned that there was no job. The couple said that they would find her a different job, perhaps across the border in Malaysia. But instead they left her alone that first night in a repair shop.

Thankfully, God brought us together again, and a friend and I were able to walk alongside her as she sought to build a new life for herself. We thank God for her

street-smarts and resourcefulness.

To pay off the travel expenses she had incurred for the first failed job opportunity, she found a job in a different part of Thailand. For three months, she sold clothes in malls throughout a popular sex industry and tourist location. She worked every day by herself, moving from mall to mall every few weeks.

This work left her feeling deeply tired and lonely. But if you asked her how she kept going, she would say it was because of God, and because people genuinely loved and cared about her.

Since that time, she has been able to change jobs again. By God's grace we are still standing beside her and holding her in our prayers.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for our family members: Joel, Nika, Cela, Katiana, and Trish.

Please pray for the ethnic people we are serving in many locations. May each person feel God's love and care.

Please pray for strengthening peace within each of us and the people we serve, in our homes, in our communities, in our countries, and worldwide. Please protect all who are working in these areas.

SCRIPTURE

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9 (NIV)