



THAILAND

day 28

Centuries ago the Thai lived in North China. Relentless pressure by the Chinese gradually forced them southward. They conquered many peoples and cultures as they sought a new homeland, but by the tenth century, they had settled in Central Thailand. A bloodless revolution in 1932, led by Westernized intellectuals, instituted a democratic constitutional monarchy. Thailand was the only country in Southern and Southeast Asia to avoid European colonization. However, the country has suffered numerous governmental upheavals since then. Today, Buddhism is the central and unifying force in Thai society and even maintains social control.

Thailand is the largest exporter of rice in the world. Thailand is also a trafficking route for narcotics, especially methamphetamine tablets.

Three occupational clusters have dominated among Chicago Thai immigrants in recent decades: restaurants; sales and service; and professional fields, especially in medicine. Local Thai leaders established the Thai Buddhist Center in 1974, which evolved into the first Thai temple, Wat Dhammaram (legally known as the Thai Buddhist Temple). **Pray that the influence of Buddhism would weaken especially among the young who are more open to American culture.**

Two local Thai Christian congregations exist, both of which meet in Forest Park: the Thai Community Church of Chicago (1988) and the Thai Presbyterian Church of Chicago (1992). **Pray that Thai churches will find creative evangelistic inroads among other Thai. Pray for increased contact with Christians on college campuses and in the work place.**



FAQS

SIZE
Smaller than Texas

POPULATION
65,068,149

CAPITAL
Bangkok

LANGUAGE
Thai

RELIGION
Buddhism

UPG'S
72

POP. IN CHICAGO
6,000

LOCATION
Forest Park, Jefferson Park, Uptown

VISIT
Thai Spice Restaurant
1320 W Devon Ave
Chicago, IL
773-973-0504

ISAIAH 56:7

“For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

