

Prai: Alternative Employment

I am Chanaprai – my friends call me “Prai.” I am from Thailand. Ten years ago I began working at Rahab Ministries after getting to know the founder. At the time I was working for a Japanese company. I saw many volunteers from overseas come to help at Rahab. They poured out their lives to help the Thai people. I often wondered why we, as Thais, didn’t help our own people! It came to the point where God offered me **alternative employment!** God called me to leave my job and work at Rahab. When I began, I really didn’t understand what it meant to serve God; I just knew I had to obey Him.

Rahab Ministries is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to offering hope and a future to women trapped in prostitution. We are located right in the middle of the red-light district of Patpong which is part of Bangkok.

Over 4,000 women work each night in the sex tourism industry of the bars in Patpong. Trained volunteers and staff from Rahab are there for them at two o’clock in the morning when they get off work. The women are at their lowest point then. Our offer of friendship is welcomed and the women stay at our center talking for hours and eating treats.

When a woman is ready to leave the life of prostitution, Rahab is there to help her. These women are emotionally damaged and have a hard time understanding the love of God. Their beliefs are heavily influenced by Buddhism and Animism. It takes time for them to know how to trust God and others.

Some of the women at Rahab work in our jewelry business. I am the manager of Rahab Bazaar as we call it. This business is set up as alternative employment for the women who hand-make all of our jewelry. I want to honor God by doing my best in leading the business that is really growing! That is why I am a business manager by day and a student at Rajamangala University of Technology by night. In a year I will earn a BA degree in Marketing!

Internationally, prostitution, and trafficking of Asian women and children is increasing. It is the second largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world and one of the most urgent human rights issues today. If I did not have hope in God, working for Rahab would be impossible. Would you pray for the personal challenges I face in my work? May God help me:

- help women, whose lives are in such a mess, put their trust in God, and have the courage to make changes for a better life?
- believe that I am actually a tool in God’s hand and He is using me.
- be patient as I wait to see if my efforts will bear fruit.
- have patience with and love for the women who come to Rahab.
- have the strength and abilities to do my studies.
- have wisdom and inspiration to create new jewelry designs and grow the business.

Please pray that God will provide the practical help and emotional support for these dear women working in prostitution. Pray that they will come to know their loving God, and have the courage to embrace alternative opportunities for employment and life.