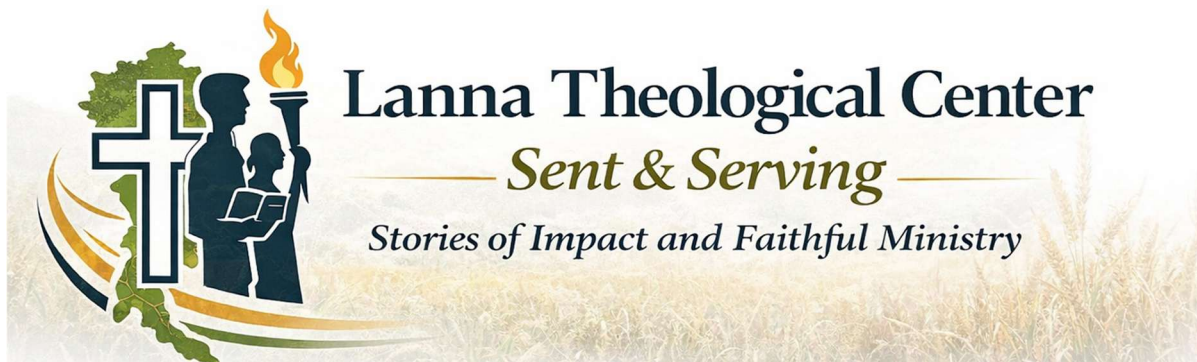




Vitaya: A Search for Something Real

Vitaya grew up surrounded by the things many would assume were enough. He was raised in a Christian home, studied in a Christian dormitory, and attended church faithfully throughout his childhood.

But after high school, everything changed.

Like many young people, Vitaya moved to the city to find work—and with it, a new way of life. Surrounded by friends who had little interest in spiritual things, he quickly drifted into a lifestyle focused on enjoyment, spending money, and chasing what the world calls happiness.



Yet deep inside, something was missing. Vitaya knew it.

What once seemed exciting began to feel empty. The noise of city life could not quiet the deeper questions in his heart. Over time, that quiet dissatisfaction turned into something stronger—a longing for something real, something lasting, something true.

Desperate for more, Vitaya began searching. He returned to church. He joined the worship team. He spent time with the youth group. And slowly, through these simple steps of obedience, clarity came. Only Jesus offered what his heart was searching for.

With conviction growing, Vitaya made a radical decision. He left behind his job, his friends, and his lifestyle in the city and returned home. For a year, he worked alongside his parents in the fields—but God was doing a deeper work.

His home church was struggling. There was no pastor, and the youth were disconnected, rarely attending church with their families. Vitaya's father, an elder and a farmer, carried responsibility but lacked the time and energy to reach the younger generation.

Vitaya understood both worlds—the pull of the city and the need at home. So he stepped in.

He began building relationships with the youth, walking with them, guiding them, and pointing them toward Christ. Then, a turning point came. The church asked his father to become the full-time pastor—and he said yes.

Watching his father step into leadership stirred something deeper in Vitaya. It clarified his own calling. He knew he needed to prepare for ministry. When a friend introduced him to Lanna Theological

Center (LTC), Vitaya sensed God's direction. As part of his application, he was asked to share his vision.

He responded: *"I see so many young people searching for truth. They spend their time and money chasing the things of the world, thinking that fun will satisfy them. But I know that in their quiet moments, there is a hunger—a longing for something real. I want to go back and be an evangelist to the youth. I want them to know that what they are searching for is Jesus."*

At LTC, Vitaya's calling was shaped and strengthened. He learned not only how to understand Scripture, but how to live in community, lead others, and teach in a way that helps people grow. During this time, God clearly formed his heart for youth ministry.

Today, Vitaya serves at Mae Salak Church as a youth pastor.

The church reflects the diversity of northern Thailand, bringing together Chinese, Akha, and Lahu communities. More than 40 years ago, the location was a drug rehabilitation center. Today, it is a place of restoration through the Gospel.

Many young families have moved to the city for work, leaving behind a congregation made up largely of elderly believers—and children.



These children are at the heart of Vitaya's ministry. The church operates a dormitory for underprivileged, poor, and orphaned children. Eighteen children, ages 6 to 18, now call this place home. Vitaya is their primary caregiver. He teaches them, leads them in worship, studies the Bible with them, and lives daily life alongside them as both mentor and example.

And God is at work. Vitaya has witnessed children come to faith in Christ, choose baptism, and begin walking with God. What encourages him most is their growing boldness—their willingness to pray openly, to stand firm in their faith, and even to lead worship on Sundays.

These are not just small changes. They are signs of **transformation**.

How You Can Pray

Please pray for Vitaya as he continues this work:

- That God would give him wisdom and creativity in ministering to the children
- That he would continue to be a strong and godly example
- That the children would grow firm in their faith so that when they leave for the city, they will remain faithful and find new communities of faith to serve with.
- And that, in God's timing, he would find a life partner to walk alongside him in ministry

This is the fruit of investment. This is the work of God through a life surrendered.

And this is why training leaders matters.

2 Timothy 2:2 (NIV): *"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."*

HE CHOSE TO *STAY.*

Not for recognition.
Not for position.
But because these
children matter
to God.

*A young man.
A willing heart.
A faithful choice.*

Vitaja serves as a
youth minister in
the dorm—teaching,
mentoring, guiding,
and encouraging
kids every day.

HE WALKS WITH THEM.

TEACHING. CORRECTING. ENCOURAGING. BELIEVING IN THEM.



TEACHING

He shares God's
truth in ways
they can
understand.



MENTORING

He listens.
He cares.
He walks
beside them.



BUILDING FAITH

He helps them
grow in their
relationship
with God.



BUILDING LIFE

He invests in
who they are
becoming.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

He creates a safe
place where
they belong.



BECAUSE WHEN A LEADER CHOOSES TO
STAY, CARE, AND WALK WITH OTHERS DAY BY DAY,
GOD USES THAT LIFE TO SHAPE
NOT JUST ONE STORY—BUT *A GENERATION OF STORIES.*

*His life.
Their tomorrow.
God's legacy.*



FAITHFUL TODAY. ETERNALLY IMPACTFUL. Thank you for partnering in stories that last.