

Reflections March 2020 Hope with a Strategy

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In the mountains of Thailand, a young Burmese immigrant who frequently crossed the Thai border to find work, found refuge in a small house near the Lahu Village. Pregnant, unemployed, and recently abandoned yet again, she was at a loss.

When it came time to give birth, at the urging of her new neighbors, she reluctantly agreed to deliver at the hospital. Because she refused to sign the birth certificate, the Thai couple who accompanied her did so, becoming on paper the child's legal guardians.

The young mother stayed with her son, PhiChai (Pee-Ch-eye) for four years. When the "legal guardians" refused to take him in she left him to care for himself. The Thai couple, upon discovering him alone, dropped PhiChai at the doorstep of a nearby hostel they had heard about from friends.

In the last 6 months, since coming to this new role as ICCM Director, I've heard "this" story, and stories equally as dire, told over and over and over again. The specific details, the names, the locations, the reasons given, are different. But the hopeless story recycles itself, through our communities, through our nation and all around the world.

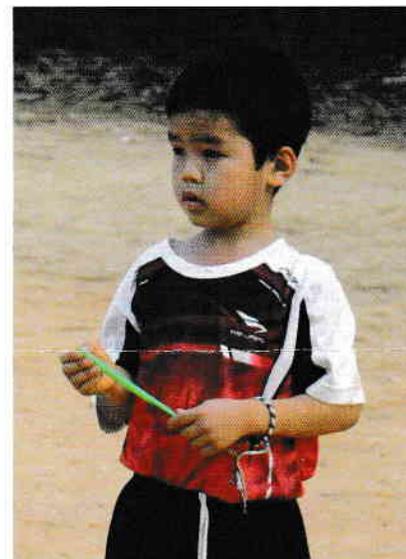


Photo above by Kaelli King



Yet **we** (you, I and ICCM) have **hope**.

We've heard this story. We recognize this as a severely broken, **and** poignantly fertile starting point.

We **see** the hope. Because we've **seen** the hope. And we are confident we **will see it again**, because our's is a "**Hope with a Strategy**"! The Strategy is to partner with Free Methodist World Missions around the globe, to Plant Transformational Churches and Develop Healthy Leaders. Ours is a **hope** that works!

PhiChai was found at the front gate of the ICCM Lahu Hostel by the church planter/pastor/hostel father. His story has barely begun. An ICCM sponsor is personally partnering with us, and together we all will watch as PhiChai is loved, safe and fulfilling his God-given potential.

We know this will happen because we've partnered in this story before. Philip, ICCM alum, Cambodia National Coordinator, overseeing ministry to 408 children (3 locations) writes, "In 2011, I began working in an official capacity with ICCM. I always encourage parents and children to finish their studies. In 2014 God blessed me when I married Daly. We have two children, David and Benjamin.

"I love the ICCM ministry. I love working with children **because it is the place that transformed my life to know God and His Love. I thank God for always having a plan for me.**"

Philip shares his story on page 2.

