

Blessed to be a **Blessing** by Deaniel Yoder

Although Christians definitely remain in the minority here in Thailand, many Thai churches reach out to their communities with special services during the Christmas season. As we thought of this, along with the economic impact that COVID-19 has had in Thailand, the idea was given that we could possibly be a blessing to churches by supplying them with food sets that they could then hand out in their communities. Thus began the process of contacting churches to see if they would be interested in this offer. There was much interest. With the financial support of Christian Aid Ministries, we purchased fifty-eight thousand pounds of rice as well as

cooking oil, canned fish, and dry goods for the food sets. While it is difficult to see people in situations of need, we did feel blessed to be one link in the chain of assisting them.

One afternoon I went to a church to assist them with the food distribution. It was a blessing for me to see so many community people come to the church, knowing that in the future those people can reflect on how the local church engaged with them and helped them. The community "mayor," who was not a believer, was very grateful to the church for their willingness to help the poor in their neighborhood. Praise the Lord!

Images from *Food Distribution*















"In our village, COVID-19 has affected many people's livelihoods. Some of the neediest people are older widows, as well as homes where children live with grandparents while attending school. Everyone needs food to survive and to stay healthy both physically and mentally. The Khun Yuam Church distributed 320 sets of food. The people came to the church to receive their gift of food. We at the Khun Yuam Church want to say thank you very much to IGo for providing the food for us to do this."











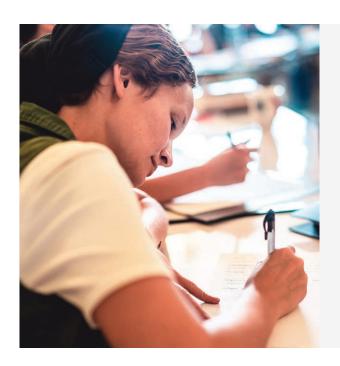
From the **Assistant Administrator**

Because of COVID-19, Thailand completely closed its international borders for a period of time. After a few months, the borders were opened for business, student, and teacher visas, but others were not allowed in. As time went on, more visa types were slowly granted permission to return. Many of our staff members are on volunteer visas. This was one of the very last visa types to be granted permission



to return. While it is now possible for IGo volunteers to come back, entering the country is no longer the simple process it once was. Along with lots of paperwork and COVID testing, a mandatory two-week quarantine must be done in a government-approved hotel. Two weeks seems like a long time to sit in a hotel room and it is also quite costly. We are anxiously looking forward to the arrival of many staff members in the coming months. Please pray for them as they complete their time in their home country and prepare to return to Chiang Mai.

Deaniel Yoder, IGo Assistant Administrator



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