



Bringing  
*learning & ministry*  
TOGETHER



## *Why Did You Come to Bangladesh?* An IGo Internship in Thailand & Bangladesh

by Mariah Troyer

God's plans were so much better than I could ever have come up with. God has a plan and I just simply need to trust and surrender. The beauty God creates from "the mess" is amazing. For me, it has been such a humbling experience.

For the first month, God's plan took me to Fang, Thailand, to a home where I lived with six girls who were a part of Mighty Oak Tree (MOT), a scholarship program for children. One of the girls was an orphan, several needed a safe haven, and others needed a place closer to school. The girls' ages ranged from 10-21. My responsibility was to love these girls by being a listening ear and an extra pair of hands.

For the remainder of my internship, I lived in Bangladesh with a missionary lady who had been serving there teaching English for over five years. I was able to see firsthand what normal days on the mission field looked like. Throughout my time, I would

do what she did and go to the places she went. I got to be a part of seeing where she taught English, helped her host both foreigners and Bengalis, visited a girls' hostel for a weekend, along with other things.

Many times while I was in Bangladesh, I would do a reality check. I was actually in a Muslim country. Once my Bengali teacher asked me, "Why did you come to Bangladesh?" I told her I was interested in coming to a Muslim country. She responded, "Why Muslim?" I proceeded to tell her I was interested to see what a Muslim country really was like since I associated terrorism with Islam. My teacher looked at me and asked, "That's what you



**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



CAMBODIA



THAILAND



THAILAND

## *IGo Internships in Thailand & Bangladesh* CONT.

think of when you think of Muslims?” Embarrassed, I replied, “Yes.” Immediately she replied, “No, we are not all terrorists. In fact, I don’t like what they are doing.” It was at that moment I realized how much I had just assumed about Muslims. I had never let it sink in that these are real people. People for whom Jesus came and died on the cross. People whom He loves. People who don’t know they are so close, but so, so far from the truth.

One of the most impacting experiences was connecting with several women who were my age. In Bangladesh, they are at high risk for sex trafficking. Spending time with them once a week, laughing with them, and hearing them share the hard things in their lives changed the way I look at Muslim women. I can no longer look at women wearing the burka and the hijab and not feel anything. Instead, I now see women who are hiding scars and so much pain. I see women who just want to

be loved and cared-for. Women who are searching for Jesus, but don’t realize it. Who will take the time to tell them the one thing that will save them?

God taught me many things during my internship. He has opened my heart to the fact that each person is individually created by Him. Each culture brings out unique truths about God that others do not. Over the past few months, I’ve learned I need God. No matter what I do in a day, my need for Him should not lessen. I can’t do life without Him. It’s as simple as trusting Him and the plan that He has for me. He took me to Fang, then to Bangladesh, knowing that I needed both places to break me down and bring me closer to Him. Throughout this process, I learned to trust and be content where He has me and to serve the people He has put around me—not serving out of obligation, but serving with all of my heart.

A collage of photos showing people in a community setting. The background is a woman in a yellow headscarf holding a baby, with a young girl in the foreground. The text "Discover More About IGo" is overlaid in large white letters, with "Chiang Mai, Thailand" below it. There are two QR codes: one for IGo Asia (www.igoasia.org) and one for YouTube (www.youtube.com). The IGo logo is also present in a red circle at the bottom left.

Check out  
*our newly  
revised video!*

*Where Training  
and Ministry  
Come Together  
Cross-Culturally*

# IGo's Four-Part Program

**First Semester | August 28 - December 15, 2023**

**Term 1 (Aug 28 - Sept 15)**

**Growth in Christ I**  
*Duane Weber*

**Cultural Anthropology**  
*Tim Stoltzfus*

**TESOL Fundamentals I**  
*Phil Siegrist*

**Genesis**  
*Carl Heatwole*

**Ministry Trip 1 (Sept 18 - 29)**

**Term 2 (Oct 2 - 20)**

**Growth in Christ II**  
*Duane Weber*

**Biblical Theology of Missions**  
*Tim Stoltzfus*

**Team Dynamics**  
*Michael Yoder*

**Ephesians**  
*Steve Byers*

**Ministry Trip 2 (Oct 23 - Nov 3)**

**Term 3 (Nov 6 - 24)**

**Principles of Teaching**  
*Duane Weber*

**Christian Evidences**  
*Tim Stoltzfus*

**Muslim Evangelism**  
*Michael Yoder*

**Church Planting**  
*Allen Roth*

**Ministry Trip 3 (Nov 27 - Dec 8)**

**Debriefing Week (Dec 11 - 15)**

classroom

ministry trips

Each term, students participate in a ten-day ministry trip in Thailand or in a neighboring Asian country. While the focus of ministry trips can vary, they are designed to enhance a global vision in the hearts of students as they relate cross-culturally and are exposed to unreached people groups and the spiritual needs of the world. Mission concepts are not only taught in the classroom; ministry trips provide hands-on opportunities to practically apply classroom knowledge.



The mentoring program involves interaction with a mentoring team as well as completion of individual assignments designed to take the student into a deeper, clearer, and more radiant relationship with Jesus Christ. The program provides personal solitude time as well as group sharing. Mentoring groups meet once a week for prayer and accountability for personally developed goals. Each term has a mentoring day which includes group sharing and recreation.

mentoring

Two evenings each week, IGo students participate in a local ministry. These ministry nights, in addition to ministry trips, provide opportunities for students to live out the Great Commission in a practical way. Ministry night options include street evangelism, teaching English classes, helping at a Thai preschool, monk ministry, and other local efforts to build relationships and spread the gospel.

ministry nights





Group  
Picture  
from  
***IGo Staff  
Retreat***



**Institute for Global Opportunities**  
PO Box 116, Ephrata, PA 17522

Non Profit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Lebanon, PA  
Permit # 146

## I WITNESS NEWS

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

### OUR **MISSION**

The purpose of IGo is to provide students with a cross-cultural setting in which mission work, Biblical teaching and personal discipleship can take place simultaneously.

We believe that it is more beneficial to be training missionaries overseas rather than in the affluent Western setting. IGo provides students with opportunities to travel and minister in Asia, with regular returns to the classroom for teaching and mentoring by instructors. The focus is not solely theoretical; instead it addresses the everyday issues a student experiences in ministry.

### CONTACT **INFORMATION**

***Institute for Global Opportunities***

Timothy Stoltzfus, Administrator

**Phone:** 574.354.8943

**E-mail:** igoasia@hotmail.com

**Website:** www.igoasia.org

Send correspondence and make checks payable to:

***Institute for Global Opportunities***

PO Box 116, Ephrata, PA 17522

Canadian donations should be sent to and be made payable to:

***Institute for Global Opportunities Canada***

PO Box 34, Sioux Narrows, ON P0X 1N0