## MANN



# Becky & Mike Mann

## **THAILAND**

## LANGUAGES

## **MINISTRY PRIORITY**

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

Thai Lahu Economic Development

Becky 2/27 Mike 8/9







BECKY and MIKE serve in Thailand with hill tribe villagers who are living below the poverty line. They work to ensure the well-being of these people and provide them with the kind of development that will last for generations. As an International Ministries Global Consultant for Rural Development based in northern Thailand,

Mike serves as director of the Integrated Tribal Development Foundation (ITDF), where he and Becky assist hill tribe people and tribal farmers with clean water, sanitation, agriculture, education, health, and cash crops. Becky works with Hands to Heart Hill Tribe Women's Cooperative and Lanna Foundation. She also helps to market Thai coffee.



Becky and a Hands to Heart co-op member work to revive old doll patterns to make new products.



Hands To Heart Women's Cooperative member Pa Nee lives in the Karen village of Baw Kaew. She was married at sixteen years old, followed by three children by the time she reached twenty years old. Pa Nee's husband acquired a job with a nongovernmental organization in Chiang Mai, only allowing him a trip home every two weeks. Pa Nee is now a grandmother, while very active with various women's activities in her church.

Through the Hands to Heart project, Pa Nee is hand-making dolls and stuffed animals, utilizing her native handwoven fabric and hand-stitching. She recently participated in a new design of a nativity set that enabled her to bring income through an order of this new product and others. It has been very difficult the last couple of years to make a sustainable income due to the COVID shutdowns of the village off and on. These products are sold at Lanna Café retail shop, as well as in US at https://handstoheartthailand.org. Through workshops provided by ITDF

staff and volunteers, Pa Nee and the women are learning new skills: natural soap-making, natural dye process for yarn, and improved sewing skills. This year, they will learn other entrepreneurial skills to help empower them with their microenterprise.

Our goal is to come alongside as many hill tribe women as we can reach, to empower them as women and help them find their voice through contributions to their community. It is our hope that the younger generations will see value in learning their native weaving craft to preserve their culture handed down by their mothers and grandmothers.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for God's guidance and discernment for ITDF's leaders and staff.

Pray for strength and safety for home and field staff.

Pray for opened eyes and ears to see and hear and follow God's will.

Pray for readiness to share God's love wherever we are.

## **SCRIPTURE**

"For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens on the earth."

Daniel 6:26b-27 (NIV)

