But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. Jeremiah 29:7
Bangkok…a city of climate-controlled mega-malls and international brand names just minutes from 200-year-old village homes; of gold-spired Buddhist temples sharing space with neon-lit strips of sleaze; of slow-moving rivers of traffic bypassed by long-tail boats plying the royal river; and of streets lined with food carts, overlooked by restaurants on top of skyscrapers serving exotic cocktails. As Bangkok races towards the future, you can rest assured that these contrasts will continue to supply the city with its never-ending Thai-ness.

—Travel Journalist Austin Bush

Yet despite its size, growing influence, and the openness of Thai institutions to allow Christian ministries, the city boasts only 400 evangelical Christian churches. That equals one church for every 25,000 city dwellers – compared with New York for instance (of similar population), which boasts one church for every 1,700. If we consider grace-based and gospel-centered churches, which tout holistic gospel renewal for the city and preach Christ from all of Scripture – we would find only a handful of churches scattered across the whole of a sprawling metropolitan area. The need today for a city and gospel-centered church in Bangkok and for Bangkok is great!

Vision
Mission to the World has had the privilege of joining in a center-city church planting team since 2012 called GRACE CITY Church Bangkok. We have been meeting in small group form since February 2013, and began monthly worship services in September. Our vision is to see GRACE CITY Bangkok grow to be a strong, center-city church – led by a team of Thai elders – with resources and vision to support a movement of Gospel-centered churches in Bangkok and beyond.

Team
Our MTW missionary families have the privilege of serving with Rev. Dr. Natee Tanchanpongs, a PCA ordained pastor who completed his PhD studies at Trinity Evangelical, and his family. Dr. Tanchanpongs currently serves as Academic Dean at Bangkok Bible Seminary. The work of the church plant is truly shared by a team of missionaries and Dr. Tanchanpongs.

Additionally we have global partners who support the work in many ways.

Values
• We believe the GRACE of God in Christ is the greatest news and only hope for the world. We believe it, preach it, and live it!
• We believe in the importance of the CITY, and the unique responsibility and ability of the church to serve her through gospel renewal and transformation.
• We believe the CHURCH is the God given vehicle to bring gospel transformation. More than simply a community worshiping weekly, we are a family – loving and serving one another as we grow up together in Christ.

Need
GRACE CITY is committed to the goals of self-sustainability and indigenous leadership. Nevertheless, in these important early days we are raising funds for several start-up costs. The most significant of these is the near-term cost of rental space for Sunday gatherings. We currently meet in the performance space (seating approx. 60) of a music school in a downtown mall. We are grateful for God’s provision, yet confident this is not a longterm option as we pray towards an official launch of weekly worship. Thus, we are raising funds to assist with the cost of rental space for 18 months following launch, as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
<th>Cost per week</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 months at 100% support</td>
<td>$15.6K</td>
<td>$15.6K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 months of 50% support</td>
<td>$7.8K</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$23.4K</td>
<td>$23.4K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To date, by God’s provision, we have raised half of this need, $11.7K in matching gifts, provided we raise the additional 50% by September 2014. Please prayerfully consider partnering with us!

Checks may be made payable to Mission to the World and sent to P.O. Box 116284, Atlanta, GA 30368-6284. Online donations are available at http://www.mtw.org/Pages/GIVE_FAQ.aspx. The project code for this need is 86500.

For more information please contact:
Andrew Bronson at andrew@mtwthailand.org
Visit GRACE CITY online at: www.gracecitybkk.org

If we want human life, as it is lived in this world, to be shaped at all by Jesus Christ – then we have to go to the city!

Tim Keller
Redeemer Presbyterian Church New York