

My name is Luke Chermue, I am a Thai citizen from Lamphun, Thailand. I was born in a Christian village in Chiang Rai, Thailand. My parents divorced shortly after I was born because my father was a drug addict. My father was not stable or able to support us, so I went to live with my father's family as a toddler. A mission team from the Nongloam Baptist Children's Home came to our village to start a church. My uncle used this opportunity to take me to the children's home in Nongloam, Thailand when I had just turned 6 years old.

I had a better life at Nongloam and was able to hear the gospel every week, along with Bible stories on a consistent basis. I got saved in that first year at the home and am so thankful God allowed me to grow up as a Christian in Thailand. I went to school and grew up in a Christian environment. As a teenager, I studied and began to understand the Bible more, growing in my Christian life and walk with God. After graduating high school, I stayed with Nongloam and interned on staff for 2 years while attending their Bible institute. After finishing their Bible program, I became a staff member at the children's home. I was supervisor for all the boys at the home, about 50-60 boys, from first grade through high school.

In 2013, my pastor Richard Horn, had cancer that took a turn for the worst. Pastor Horn had been like a father for most of my life. He had to return to America for treatment. My responsibilities on staff grew and I began to see more of what a pastor's responsibilities were. Seeing the responsibility and reality of what a pastor does began to weigh on my heart. That year, I went with our missions team to help in several of the village churches that we started, like the one started in my home village. It was on one of these trips that I heard a pastor preach and add to the gospel. The congregation, accepted his word and believed they needed to work for their salvation. God used this to burden my heart to preach the truth of His Word and teach others how to study the Bible for themselves. After this experience and God's working on my heart, I surrendered to serve God with my life on August 10, 2013.

After my pastor died, I stayed on staff at the children's home for another year and a half before leaving to help the Ballou family start a church in Lamphun, Thailand. I started with the Ballou family as an intern in 2015 and looked for opportunities to continue studying the Bible. After 2 years of internship, I became the assistant pastor for our church. I believe God's will for my life is to spread the Gospel and teach the Bible in Thailand with the hill tribes and Thai people. I will do this by starting a local church, because that is God's plan for reaching others. Amie and I plan to stay with the Ballou family and Sila Baptist Church in Lamphun until God shows us where He would have us start a church.