

# THE ASIAN JOURNAL

A SCHOOL OF TOMORROW ASIA® PUBLICATION

*Far East Asia - Featuring Thailand & Laos*



## Serving in the Far East

I recently read an article about the educational struggles of our host country, Thailand, compared to its neighboring countries here in Asia. Among the ASEAN Community, Thailand has ranked 7th among the ten (10) member countries concerning its education program.

In 2022, Education First released its English Proficiency Index survey among one hundred eleven English as Second Language (ESL) countries. Laos ranked 60th, Myanmar 93rd, Thailand ranked 97th, and Laos placed 111th in its report.<sup>1</sup>

Instead of being disheartened by the low English Proficiency Index of several countries here in Asia, we can see it as an opportunity to re-set our vision. We can accept the challenge of the 2023 theme by seeing the issues and taking our task "Facing Forward" and employing this year's themes to "Commit to the Cause" and pass on the baton from "Generation to Generation." I believe that this report is our Macedonian Call (Acts 16: 9). Apostle Paul saw the vision of the Macedonian man calling, "Come over to Macedonia (Far East) and help us." It seems that this is what we have been doing for the past few years now. We have been inviting, principals, and would-be supervisors to 'come over and help us.' Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar are needing more Pauls and Silases. We need more Peters, Andrews, Thomases, and Barnabases to answer God's call.

### Planting Mushrooms or Trees?

Growing up as a young leader in the Philippines, I never even imagined Thailand as a prospective area of ministry. I thought I would be serving in a local church ministry set-up. I was ready to be a pastor or an associate pastor of a local church in a medium-city setting. With my love for counseling, I thought I would just be busy assisting members in their Christian journey and discipling new members to follow Christ.

However, there are no accidents with God. There is a reason why God placed us in this area. I did not choose Thailand but it seems that God has opened its doors to Christian educators so that we can invest in the lives of the thousands of young people needing English education. In His scheme of things, God is using English education as a bridge to deliver the Precious Seed of God's Word here in the Far East.

One of the joys of our ministry here in the Far East is helping churches, foundations, and non-government organizations (NGOs) establish English learning centers in communities not reached by government and private schools. I get excited when we see organizations pursue their vision to reach different people groups in different communities especially the ones who cannot afford English education. However, I have also seen how many of these organizations fall away due to the many challenges put up by the enemy. Issues like limited funding, no staff, or leaders leaving the mission field are just examples of challenges that present dangers to Christian school ministries. To missionaries and those who were called to reach the world, roadblocks as mentioned earlier are a normal part of engaging the enemy in its territory.

As God led us to help start a lot of schools, we also experienced a great deal of frustration when ministries departed and moved elsewhere. Sometimes, I feel that Thailand and its border nations seem like a rotating door of ministries and missionaries finding their unique place to serve God in this part of Asia. Some ministries stay for decades and some missionaries choose to leave after a year. The great challenge for every ministry is to stay faithful and consistent to our call no matter what the cost. Christian Education takes time to bear fruit. Like planting fruit trees, we will not see the fruits of our labor in two to three years. We need to stay in the field longer and ask God for strength to lead our ministries beyond our comfort zones UNTIL we see the harvest. Mushrooms will only take one day to pick the harvest. We are not here for mushrooms. We want a better harvest. A harvest of souls for God's Kingdom.

### English Proficiency Index 2022

#### Very High Proficiency

02 Singapore

#### High Proficiency

22 Philippines

24 Malaysia

#### Low Proficiency

60 Vietnam

81 Indonesia

#### Very Low Proficiency

93 Myanmar

94 Cambodia

97 Thailand

111 Laos

## FLCA Harvest

In August 2012, we never thought that the learning center we started, Faith Learning Center Asia, would have high school graduates. We never thought of helping students beyond level eight but now, we have around twenty students who completed their high school diploma using the Lighthouse Christian Academy dual enrollment program. Our high school graduates have entered local colleges and universities. Most of them received partial scholarships. Our graduates enroll in universities beyond Thailand. Students enrolled in the Philippines, Kyrgyzstan, South Africa, and now, in the United States.

There are seasons when we felt that our work here with students and with churches seems too much but we learned to trust God's resources and provision. Like Gideon, we cannot boast of the victory. Our lack of resources and manpower only magnified God's presence in our midst. Gideon's 300 men defeated thousands of the enemy's armies not because of their military tactics or might but because of God's glorious power.

## The Asian Challenge

As we continue to serve here in the Far East, I would like to share several challenges as we face forward in responding to God's call in our ministry.

1. **Pray for the Harvest.** We have to admit that we cannot do everything for everyone. One thing is sure though: we can pray for everyone. You might be serving a nation where Christian education is accepted. Praise the Lord! However, can we ask you to pray for other parts of Asia that aren't open to the Gospel message? Jesus gave this challenge: "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:36-38) Would you include Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam in your prayer list? Pray for God's favor as our school leaders meet with government officials. Pray for leaders to withstand the assault of the Enemy. Pray for God's provision and finances. Pray for students and staff. Pray for more ministries to see the vision for Christian Education.
2. **Pass the "goat test" before God will give you a Goliath.** Before David faced Goliath, he defeated the wolves and bears first. He was faithful to the few sheep (goats) that his father Jesse had entrusted to him. In other words, be faithful to the students that God has given you. Being faithful to the few prepares you for the "many" He will send later on. If you are faithful to your monkeys, God will give you a gorilla!
3. **Hold On to God's Vision for your Ministry.** Every ministry goes through different seasons. It's quite easy to relax when we have all the resources for our ministry but we sometimes forget that every ministry will go through times of testing. Someone said, "Don't doubt in the dark what God has told you in the light." Yes, there will be dark days but don't worry, God's presence is never an issue. He has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us. Hang on, my brother. Hang on, my sister.
4. **Be connected to another growing Ministry.** Don't isolate yourself. Find a mentor who is ahead of you. Find other Christian Educators who are maturing in their journey. Christ said that if we want to be fruitful, we have to be connected to the Vine and other branches (John 15).
5. **A single candlelight shines brightest in the dark.** With the reports that I mentioned earlier, either we will be discouraged or be challenged for the task in front of us. We have an opportunity as Christian educators to shine brightly for the Father. "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify the Father which is heaven." (Matthew 5: 16) "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2: 10) Stay where you are and be faithful. Yes, it may be dark but God is using your life as a testimony against the darkness. Reflect Jesus' light. Like Joseph, bloom where you're planted.



**Dr. Ray Granaderos**  
**Consultant and Administrator of FLCA**

# Faith Learning Center Asia

*First Model Status School in Thailand*

## Short History from 2012 to 2025

Faith Learning Center Asia was started by Dr. & Mrs. Ray Granaderos in July 2012. The immediate need for the Filipino students who cannot afford the international school fees. However, as soon as the school started, they accepted expat students in the Bangkok area. FLCA started with just seven students in the school year 2012-2013. Within that school year, more students were added. The next school year FLCA doubled its enrollment.

For the first couple of years, Pastor Ray was the supervisor and Ms. Dei was the monitor. At this time, there were only a few schools in the Far East so Mr. Ray was able to work with local students and experience firsthand the potential issues that many schools in the Far East will face including dual enrollment, afternoon classes, and high school graduation just to mention a few.

FLCA has moved four times to accommodate more students. The leadership tried to assist parents with limited resources and provide full scholarships to Thai students who were members of the local Thai church. Throughout these years, FLCA student enrollment never grew beyond thirty students and rented basic townhouses to keep the expenses down.

Currently, FLCA has 40 students from ABCs for English Learners to level 12 students. Level 11 and level 12 students are required to be dual-enrolled with Lighthouse Christian Academy. Senior students earn a US accredited diploma and join the virtual graduation of LCA. Most of the FLCA graduates are enrolled in Thai colleges and universities using their LCA diplomas.

In the future, FLCA hopes to acquire its campus and be given a permit as a non-formal education program under the Thai Ministry of Education.



# Faith Learning Center Asia

*A Story of Success Filled with Thanksgiving and Pride*



**2014 - 2019**

## **Academic Journey:**

Joël Charles was enrolled as a preschooler with Azaria Homeschool. In 2014, he enrolled at FLCA as a grade 9 student. The transition from homeschooling was smooth. He managed to adapt well to his new schedule and enjoyed making new friends. The well-trained and capable teachers played an instrumental role in his acquiring of new skills and developing godly character. His strong faith and belief in God established the firm foundation in his young adulthood.

He excelled in his academics by simply applying God's Word believing that he can do all things through Christ who strengthens him. A highlight every year was attending and participating in several events at the annual Far East Asia Student Convention. He set high standards and excelled in each event he took part in.

As a student, Joël was privileged to attend the A.C.E. School of Tomorrow International Student Convention at Ball State University in Chicago in 2018. It was a great opportunity for him, and once again, he surprised the school and his parents by returning with several medals. Due to his high SAT score, he received an invitation to attend the Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. in 2019. It was a game changer in broadening his mindset and dreams.

## **Stellenbosch University:**

**2019-2022**

After completing his high school studies in Bangkok, the entire family returned to South Africa.

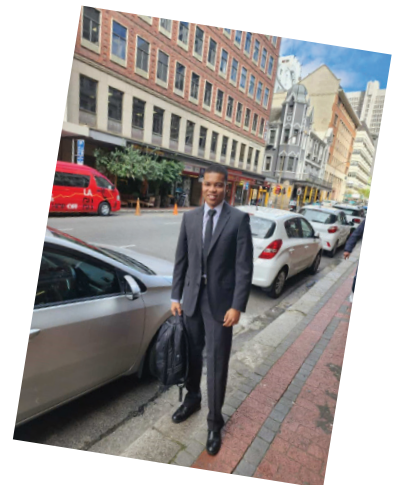
He enrolled at Stellenbosch University and completed his 4 year LLB Law Degree. During his years as a student, he served as a student monitor for new students, took part in debate competitions, organizing basketball competitions amongst the different student residences, and was elected as the class representative in his final year.

## **Law Practice:**

Joël is officially qualified as a lawyer today. He is currently in the final phase of his articles. On February 6, 2026, he will be accepted at the Bar of Attorneys at the High Court in Cape Town, South Africa.

We rejoice with him for his achievements and thank God for making this possible.

Our advice for young people is, "But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."



# El Dream Christian International School

*Dream Beyond, Soar Higher!*



El Dream Christian International School is a Christ-centered institution using the A.C.E. School of Tomorrow curriculum, dedicated to awakening God's dream in every student's heart. Our mission is to empower the next generation with God's Word through personalized learning pathways and to cultivate their unique gifts, preparing them to lead and serve with Christ-like character in a diverse and changing world.



Rooted in biblical values, El Dream Christian International School provides a holistic education anchored in five core principles: academic excellence, Christ-like character, sound spirit, physical well-being, and faithful stewardship.

- **Academic Excellence:** We pursue excellence through individualized, mastery-based learning, enabling students to progress responsibly and diligently. Students are trained to set goals, manage their time, and work consistently without excuses.
- **Christ-like Character:** Character formation is central to our mission. Through daily devotions, students study the life of Jesus, meditate on His character traits, and practice applying them. Each semester, community service projects provide opportunities to live out Christ-like values in real-world contexts.
- **Sound Spirit:** We encourage students to maintain a healthy relationship with God through worship and prayer. The school's prayer room serves as a place of spiritual refuge, drawing them closer to God. Each month, El Dream's youth worship brings students and adults together for two hours of wholehearted praise, creating opportunities for healing and fostering a more intimate walk with God.
- **Physical Well-Being:** Our P.E. program is designed to build strength and fitness in enjoyable, effective ways. Fresh, nutritious lunches further support students in maintaining healthy lifestyles.
- **Faithful Stewardship:** Believing that caring for God's creation is part of our calling, we emphasize stewardship through hands-on experiences. In our farming class, students grow plants and raise animals, learning to nurture and responsibly care for nature.

The five core values of El Dream Christian International School complement one another, working together in harmony to create a powerful synergy that develops students in every dimension — far beyond expectations. Through this well-rounded education, students experience transformation, and their families are impacted as well.

# El Dream Christian International School

*Dream Beyond, Soar Higher!*



At El Dream, we recognize that close communication between school and home is essential to achieving our educational goals. To foster this partnership, we provide many opportunities for parents to be actively involved in their children's growth, such as parent-teacher conferences, the parent-teacher organization, sports day, international day, and parent workshops.



Our holistic approach extends beyond students to the entire school community. Students, parents, and staff are all encouraged to pursue a balanced growth in every aspect of life. To ensure students receive proper guidance, our staff is committed to continuous self-improvement, whilst parents are encouraged to play an active role in their children's learning at home rather than relying solely on the school.

El Dream means God's dream. As dreamers, we earnestly and humbly long to see His dream fulfilled on earth. We seek to graduate students who embody authentic Christian values and who make a meaningful impact on the world. We aim for our students to love God and others, pursuing not only personal success, but also a life of service that responds to the needs of the world.

In 2024, El Dream received its international school license from the Ministry of Education in Thailand, marking the beginning of a new chapter. Expecting great things from God, we strive to attempt great things for God as William Carey said. Together with our students, families, and community, we walk forward in faith, committed to nurturing lives that shine for Christ. May El Dream Christian International School always remain a place where God's dream is awakened, cultivated, and lived out — generation after generation. May God's blessing overflow and flourish in every school ministry throughout the earth.



# A Challenge of Faith That Brings Blessings

## Life and Times of Our Learning Center



Finishing up a mission trip in 2012, I thought my time in Thailand had come to an end. Thankfully, God had other plans for me. In 2018, when Lorna and I returned to Thailand for a vacation, we were asked to help out at a learning center, and being retirees, we were able to stay and assist. That same year, we went for the April Training in Bangkok and met someone who intended to start a learning center in Northern Thailand. Hence, we relocated to Chiang Rai for this purpose. Despite having communicated clearly how I view Christian education and my goals in the ministry for evangelism, I soon learned that our vision did not align. With the help of some parents, Chiang Rai Christian Academy was established in October 2019.

Within the first school year, we moved the learning center four times. Each time meant cleaning and painting. Each time, we gained a little more room, and learned lessons in dealing with other cultures and differing mindsets in the ministry and business. My goal (vision) then and now has not changed. Our learning center focuses on providing an affordable Bible-centered education to as many students as possible. High income families are able to send their children to prestigious and/or private schools whereby a good education is provided. Unfortunately, this means the poor, less fortunate are left to an educational system that indoctrinates students, not educate them. All children should be able to get as good an education as possible. I know that I cannot provide an education to all, but I would do my best to help as many children receive an education as I possibly can.

As foreigners, having to renew and maintain our work visas each time is a constant financial battle and time-consuming challenge. Our goal is to have the learning center licensed as a language school by the Ministry of Education, and for a period of time, this was made possible. However, many other obstacles and drawbacks developed over time causing the learning center to start anew. Despite the changes - from a new director to the name of the learning center, and even relocation of the school, we continued to press on toward our goal because the Lord opened our eyes to see His providence and the saints' He sent to pray for us. For this reason, we know we are on the right track. Today, we have a new name - Maitree Maesai Language School, located in Maesai, Thailand on the northern border with Myanmar. Many families have relocated to this area to avoid the war, and because of this, their children are now enrolled in our school. We are thankful to the Lord for the opportunity to serve in this way, and we are praying that we will once again be licensed so that we may offer staff and student visas.

# A Challenge of Faith That Brings Blessings

Life and Times of Our Learning Center



At our learning center, education is not only about knowledge but also about wisdom and values. We guide our learners to grow in faith, integrity, and love, so that they may shine as a light in society. Our vision is to raise up a new generation of young people who are academically excellent, well-prepared for universities and careers worldwide, have a strong spiritual foundation in the Word of God and walking in His ways, socially responsible, and ready to contribute positively to their communities and beyond.

Our caring Supervisors do not just instruct, they mentor, providing a safe and supportive environment where students feel valued. This is our holistic approach to education - developing the body, mind and spirit.



With English as the language of instruction, students gain confidence to communicate globally. Combined with biblical teaching, they are prepared not only for careers, but also for a meaningful life led by God's purpose.

At Maitree Maesai Language School, we are committed to partnering with parents to shape well-rounded children, cultivating wisdom, knowledge, and Godly character, and guiding students to discover their calling and to serve God faithfully.

Please pray with us and for us as we continue to reach the lost for THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

*Founder and Principal  
Dennis Moss*



# Vientiane GAiN Glory School

## Christian Education in the Heart of Laos



Vientiane GAiN Glory School was founded in January 2007 by missionaries Mr. Jonathan Choi and Mrs. Lydia Lee, who were sent by God with a vision to bring Christian education and hope to the heart of Laos. Despite the nation being a closed Buddhist country, where sharing the Gospel openly often leads to persecution and restriction, the couple stepped out in faith, trusting in God's promises. *"And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it."* (Jeremiah 33:9)

Through every season — whether in times of growth or challenge — Vientiane GAiN Glory School remains a testimony to the faithfulness of God. What He began in 2007, He continues to sustain this school to remain as a light in the darkness, a place where students not only learn, but encounter the love of Christ, and are empowered to carry His message to the ends of the earth. As the school grew, so did its mission — not just to educate, but to disciple and equip the next generation of Lao and all nation leaders. We believe every child is created with God-given potential, and our vision is to help them grow in both knowledge and Christlike character.

One of the school's most impactful initiatives is its student outreach program, where high school students are trained and given opportunities to minister in the local community. Through acts of service, prayer, and encouragement, students learn what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ.

In celebration of the school's anniversary each year, a mini bazaar is organized by students, staff, and parents. This event is not only a time of joyful fellowship and thanksgiving for all God has done, but also serves as a way to bless others. All proceeds from the mini bazaar go directly to supporting and serving local communities in need — another way the school lives out its mission of love in action. It is also one of the ways for the school to use whatever gift it has to serve others as faithful steward of God.

Every summer, our school is excited to host a series of enriching and faith-filled events, beginning with our annual Summer Bible Camp. Designed to help students grow deeper in their relationship with Christ, the camp includes engaging Bible studies, worship sessions, and fun group activities. In addition, the school conducts its special Boys' and Girls' Night events specifically for high school students, offering a safe and uplifting space for teens to build strong, Christ-centered friendships, and discuss real-life topics from a Biblical perspective. These gatherings aim to strengthen the spiritual foundation of our youth and encourage them to walk boldly in their faith.

From the very beginning, the school was covered by the grace and protection of God. What started as a small school in a spiritually resistant land has grown steadily through the years. God's hand has never left the work — each challenge met with His provision, and every obstacle turned into an opportunity to witness His glory. By God's faithfulness, Vientiane GAiN Glory School now serves more than 300 students (90% Lao students and 10% foreign nationalities) and has expanded to a second campus located at the edge of the city. The school is known for its commitment to academic excellence, strong Christian values, and loving community. Families across the region are drawn to the integrity and purpose woven into every aspect of the school's mission. It continues to support through scholarships, tuition assistance, and donations, the children from missionary families and low-income backgrounds to gain access to a quality, Christ-centered education. Additionally, the school extends support to students outside of the school, helping them continue their studies and empowering them to pursue their God-given dreams.

Glory to God for the gifts He has placed in each student — talents, dreams, creativity, and potential. Honor to Him for the teachers who care, friends who support, and opportunities to grow. *"To God be the glory — in this school, in our lives, and in all we do."*



# Schools on Status



## **Model Status**

- Thailand -
1. Faith Learning Center Asia
  2. Grace Bangna International
  3. Lighthouse International Academy
  4. Logos International Academy

## **Quality Status**

- Laos -
1. Berean English Learning Center
  2. Vientiane GAiN Glory School

- Thailand -
1. Eulogia Christian School
  2. Agape International School
  3. Manorom International Christian School
  4. Chiangmai Grace Academy
  5. Berean Learning Center
  6. Little Lamb International Christian School
  7. El Dream Christian International School
  8. Chiang Rai Christian Academy
  9. Berean Learning Center Fang
  10. Place of Grace Learning Centre
  11. Blessings International Academy
  12. Majestic Neshar Stars Academy

## **Statistics of Schools on Status in Other Areas:**

### **Model Status**

India	2
Japan	2
Korea	1
Malaysia	4
Vietnam	1

### **Quality Status**

India	4
Korea	9
Malaysia	18
Myanmar	7
Singapore	4
United Arab Emirates	5
Vietnam	20

# 2026 SOTA Calendar of Events

## Educators' Conventions

Country	City	Dates
India	Hyderabad	March 13
Japan	Yokohama	September 25
Korea	<i>TBC</i>	March 27-28
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	March 9-10
Myanmar	Yangon	April 30 - May 1
Pakistan	Rawalpindi	March 13
Thailand	Bangkok	March 5-6
Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh City	March 2-3

## Administrators' and Supervisors' Training

Country	City	Dates
India	Hyderabad	April 20-24
Japan	Yokohama	March 16-20
Korea	Asan-si, Chungcheongnam-do	January 26-30 May 11-15 July 27-31
Laos	Vientianne	August 3-7
Malaysia	Penang	June 1-5 November 23-27
Myanmar	Yangon Pyin Oo Lwin	May 4-8 May 18-22 ( <i>TBC</i> )
Pakistan	Rawalpindi	July 10-14
Thailand	Bangkok  Chiang Mai	April 13-17 June 29 - July 3 October 12-16 July 13-17
Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh City  Hanoi	June 15-19 September 14-18 July 13-17

## Interschool Competition (IC)/ Regional Student Convention (RSC)

Country	City	Dates
India ( <i>IC</i> )	<i>TBC</i>	January 16-23
Japan ( <i>IC</i> )	<i>TBC</i>	October 23-24
Korea ( <i>RSC</i> )	<i>TBC</i>	November 9-13
Malaysia ( <i>RSC</i> )	<i>TBC</i>	September 7-11 ( <i>TBC</i> )
Thailand ( <i>RSC</i> )	<i>TBC</i>	November 22-29

# 2026 SOTA Calendar of Events

## ESL Online Seminars

Training Series	Seminar(s)	Deadline for Registration(s)
The keystones of ESL	Series #1 - <i>The Five Laws of Learning Revisited</i>	January 5
The Three ESL Essentials	ABCs III	January 19
The Three ESL Essentials	Levels 1-3 Learning Center II	February 2
The Three ESL Essentials	Levels 4-8 Learning Center II	March 16
The Keystones of ESL	Series #2 - <i>Building Language Proficiency with A.C.E. Curriculum</i>	April 13
The Three ESL Essentials	Levels 1-3 Learning Center III	April 27
The Keystones of ESL	Series #3 - <i>Realistic Goals and Attainable Academic Projections</i>	May 11
The Three ESL Essentials	Levels 4-8 Learning Center III	May 25
The Keystones of ESL	Series #4 - <i>Learning Center Evaluation</i>	June 8
The Keystones of ESL	Series #5 - <i>Getting the Most Out of Every PACE</i>	June 22

### Note:

1. The following Three ESL Essentials seminars (ABCs I, ABCs II, Levels 1-3 Learning Center I, and Levels 4-8 Learning Center I) were already conducted in the year 2025.
2. Staff of schools interested in the above events may contact their respective area Consultant for more information and registration.
3. Series #1 under the Keystones of ESL is a pre-requisite for all other seminars in the Keystones of ESL series.

## ESL On-site Training in Thailand

Training Type	City, Country	Dates
Fundamentals Trainers' Training	Uthaithani, Thailand	August 10-14
Advanced Training	Uthaithani, Thailand	August 17-21