eThis timeline is available online at [www.thaichurchhistory.com](http://www.thaichurchhistory.com) and is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/). It may be freely distributed in either electronic or print format, provided that the website address is retained in the footer of the document. The text of this outline may be used for ministry and educational purposes without requesting permission, but you may not charge money for this outline beyond the cost of reproduction.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Date** | **Description** |
| Nestorian Christians in Ayuthaya? | 1503 | Italian traveler Ludovico di Varthima says that while he was in Bangladesh, he met Nestorian merchants from Ayuthaya. There is no other evidence to confirm his report. |
| Portugese seize island of Malacca | 1511 |  |
| Portugal Diplomatic Mission to Ayuthaya | 1517 |  |
| Martin Luther Nails 95 Theses to Wittenburg Castle Door | 1517 | Martin Luther’s 95 theses were a list of objections to abuse and errors in the Catholic Church. His attack on indulgences stirred controversy and ignited the Protestant Reformation. Protestants arrive in Thailand about 300 years after the Catholics. |
| Portugese Community in Ayuthaya | 1538 |  |
| Catholic missionaries arrive in Ayuthaya under the patronage of the Portugese | 1567 |  |
| King Narai the Great | 1656-1688 |  |
| French Jesuits Arrive in Siam | 1662 | Monseigneur Pierre de la Motte-Lambert leads a small group of French Jesuits to establish a mission in Ayuthaya during the reign of King Narai. |
| Seminary of Saint Joseph | 1665 | French Catholics found the Seminary of Saint Joseph in Ayuthaya, in order to train priests from all the countries of the Southeast Asia. The teaching was done in Latin. |
| Saint Joseph's Church is First Catholic Church in Thailand | 1666 |  |
| Diplomatic Relations Between France and Siam | 1685 | French ambassador Chevalier de Chaumont presents Louis the 14th’s letter to King Narai |
| Siamese Embassy To Louis the 14th, King of France | 1686 |  |
| Constantine Phaulkon Executed | 1688 | Greek adventurer and royal favorite Constantine Phaulkon is executed because of his influence with King Narai. It was feared that King Narai might convert to Catholicism and that Phaulkon was plotting to help the French colonize Siam. |
| Phra Petratcha Usurps the Throne from King Narai | 1688 | The end of King Narai’s reign marks the end of the golden era of Catholic influence in Siam. |
| Royal Prohibition Against the Christian Religion | 1731 | A royal prohibition against Christianity is issued, specifying that, 1) It is forbidden to write books teaching Christianity in the Thai and Bali languages, 2) It is forbidden to proclaim Christianity to Thai, Mon, and Lao people, 3) It is forbidden to invite Thai, Mon, and Lao people to become Christians, 4) It is forbidden to criticize Thai religion. |
| Ayuthaya Sacked by the Burmese | 1767 | On account of the loss of Ayuthaya to the Burmese, the Catholic community in Ayuthaya is scattered. Many of them flee to Chanthaburi. |
| Catholic Missionaries Return to Siam | 1769 | Catholic missionaries are given permission to return during the Thonburi era and Thai Catholics are among those serving as the King’s bodyguards. |
| American Revolution | 1776 | The United States of America is founded when the 13 British colonies in North America win a war of independence. |
| Catholic Missionaries are Kicked Out of Siam | 1779 | Catholic Missionaries are Kicked Out of Siam because they forbid Thai Catholics to take part in the oath of allegiance to the newly crowned King Taksin. |
| Reign of King Buddha Yodfa Chulalok the Great (Rama I) พระบาทสมเด็จพระพุทธยอดฟ้าจุฬาโลกมหาราช | 1782-1809 |  |
| King Rama 1 invites Catholic missionaries to return | 1782 | Catholic missionaries return to Siam and renew evangelistic efforts |
| French Revolution | 1789 | A violent revolt against both the King and the Catholic Church result in France becoming a secular republic. |
| William Carey Goes to India | 1793 | William Carey is called the Father of Modern Missions. His book “An Inquiry” inspired many people to become missionaries. He spent many years in India and translated the Bible into 5 languages. |
| Reign of King Buddha Loetla Nabhalai (Rama II) พระบาทสมเด็จพระพุทธเลิศหล้านภาลัย | 1809-1824 |  |
| Adoniram Judson Sails to Burma | 1812-1813 | Adoniram and Ann Judson went to Burma, persevering through many hardships to do evangelism and Bible translation. They were very influential in the beginning of the church in Burma. Ann Judson is also credited with being the first Protestant missionary to Thai people, whom she met in Burma. |
| Ann Judson evangelizes Siamese in Burma | 1816 | Ann Judson shares the Gospel with Siamese war captives in Burma. She studies the Siamese language and translates Christian literature into Siamese, namely the Gospel of Matthew, a catechism written by her husband, and a tract called “The View of the Christian Religion.” A number of Siamese believed in Christ as a result of her evangelism. |
| Reign of King Jessadabodindra (Rama III) พระบาทสมเด็จพระนั่งเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว | 1824-1851 |  |
| Anglo-Burmese War | 1824-1826 | The British defeat Burma, which marks the beginning of the loss of Burma’s independence. By 1885, the entire country was under British control. |
| Karl Gutzlaff & Jacob Tomlin Arrive in Thailand | 1828 | Gutzlaff and Tomlin are the first Protestant missionaries to live in Thailand. Gutzlaff was also one of the first missionaries to China and Korea. |
| David Abeel enters Siam to begin mission work under the ABCFM | 1831 | Rev. David Abeel comes to Siam to survey the land and to being mission work as a representative of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. |
| John Taylor Jones begins American Baptist work in Siam | 1833 | Adoniram Judson and his fellow American Baptist missionaries in Burma have burden for Siam and send John Taylor Jones and his wife Eliza from the Burmese mission to begin work in Siamese work in Bangkok. |
| Dan Bradley arrives in Siam | 1835 | Dr. Dan Bradley evangelizes broadly but is best remembered by the Thai for introducing vaccination, Western medicine, and the printing press to Thailand. |
| Printing Press Introduced to Siam | 1835 | Missionary doctor Dan Bradley brings the first printing press to Siam. He uses it to print literature for both missionaries and the Siamese government. |
| Dr. Bradley Performs the First Surgery in Siam | 1837 | Dr. Dan Bradley performs the first surgery in Siamese history, amputating the arm of a Buddhist monk. On January 13, 1837, a Buddhist monk was injured when a cannon loaded with fireworks exploded at a festival at a local temple. The news of his surgical success spread broadly because it was believed that a part of a person’s body could not be removed without the person dying. |
| Maitri Chit Church is First Protestant Church in Asia | 1837 | Maitri Chit Church is founded as in the Chinese community in Bangkok, and is the first Protestant church in Asia. |
| Opium War | 1839-1842 | England defeats China, and forces her to open five cities to foreign trade. The British victory also opens the way for missionaries and other foreigners to enter China. |
| Dr. Bradley Produces Smallpox Vaccine in Siam for the First Time | 1840 | Dan Bradley performs the first successful smallpox vaccination in Thailand, and also succeeds in producing the vaccine locally. |
| American Presbyterian Mission Work Begins in Siam | 1840 | William Buell begins Presbyterian work. Buell goes home in 1844 but Stephen Matoon and Samuel House and their wives re-start the Presbyterian work in 1847. |
| Siamese New Testament Printed for the First Time | 1843 | John Taylor Jones finished translating the New Testament into Siamese in 1839 and it was printed in 1843. |
| Jesse Caswell teaches English to Prince Mongkut | 1845-1846 | Missionary Jesse Caswell teaches English to Prince Mongkut while he is a monk. They have a good relationship and Prince Mongkut is helpful and friendly to the missionaries when he becomes King Mongkut (Rama 4) |
| Stephen Mattoon and Samuel House Re-Open Presbyterian Work in Siam | 1847 |  |
| First Presbyterian Church Founded | 1849 | The American Presbyterian Mission founds the Samray Church on the Thonburi side of the river in Bangkok. Samray is the first Presbyterian church in Thailand. |
| Dr. Dan Bradley Resigns from the ABCFM | 1849 | Dr. Dan Bradley chooses to resign from the ABCFM after his belief and promotion of Christian perfectionism bring him into conflict with the board. Bradley later become a member of the American Missionary Board (AMA) and returns to Thailand. |
| Catholic Missionaries are Kicked Out of Thailand for the Third Time | 1849 | Eight Catholic missionaries are expelled from Thailand because they refused to take part in a Buddhist ceremony to promote hope and encouragement among the Thai people after a serious cholera epidemic. They had also printed a book attacking Buddhism. |
| Reign of King Mongkut (Rama IV) พระบาทสมเด็จพระจอมเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว | 1851-1868 |  |
| King Rama IV Invites Catholic Missionaries to Return | 1851 | Catholic mission work and evangelization was renewed in Thailand after King Rama IV allowed Catholic missionaries to return |
| Female Missionaries Teach English at the Royal Palace | 1851 | Eliza Jones (pictured) is one of three missionary wives who were invited to teach English to the ladies at the royal court. They eventually began to teach more Bible than English and were no longer allowed to teach at the palace. |
| Bangkok Christian College Founded | 1852 | The boys Christian high school originally located next to Samray church would later move to Pramuan Road and be renamed Bangkok Christian College. |
| Bangkok Protestant Cemetery | 1853 | A royal land grant creates the Bangkok Protestant Cemetary for the foreign community in Bangkok to bury their dead. Numerous early missionaries, traders, and other expats are buried there. |
| Hudson Taylor Begins Missionary Work in China | 1853 | Hudson Taylor dresses in Chinese clothes and evangelizes inland China. He founds the China Inland Mission (CIM) in 1865 which brings many more missionaries to China from Europe and America. CIM later changes its name to OMF International. |
| Bowring Treaty | 1855 | Sir John Bowring, British consul to Hong Kong, visited Siam and negotiated with King Mongkut (Rama IV) a treaty of commerce. Bowring’s influence also helped prevented the expulsion of missionaries from Thailand. King Mongkut believed that a critical letter about him in a Singapore newspaper was written by a missionary in Siam. |
| Daniel McGilvary Arrives in Thailand | 1858 | McGilvary will serve in Thailand for 60 years, and become the most influential missionary in Northern Thailand. He is sometimes called the Father of the Church in Northern Thailand. |
| Charles Darwin Publishes "Origin of the Species" | 1859 | Darwin popularizes the theory of evolution, that man evolved from monkeys. Many Christians see this as a direct attack on the Bible and the Christian faith. |
| Esther: First Female Siamese Convert | 1861 | Esther Pradipasena was raised by missionaries Rev. Stephen and Mrs. Mary Mattoon. She joined the church in 1861 and married Mr. Naa Pradipasena, adopted son of Dr. Samuel House. |
| American Civil War | 1861-1865 | The American Civil War divides the country into North and South over the issue of states’ rights. The Southern States lose and are forced to remain part of the United States. Black slaves receive their freedom. |
| Petchaburi Mission Station Founded | 1861 | First mission station outside of Bangkok. Daniel McGilvary and S.G. McFarland are the first missionaries in residence in Petchaburi. |
| Flat Coins Replace Shells as Currency in Siam | 1862 |  |
| Bangkok Police Force Founded | 1862 |  |
| Anna Leonowens teaches English in Royal Palace | 1862 | King Mongkut advertised for English teacher in Singapore newspaper, and Anna Leonowens accepts the job. The King specifies that she is restricted to teach English alone, and is forbidden to teach the Christian religion. She later writes a book about her experience. The book is made into a movie in the 20th century and is banned in Thailand because it gives a negative impression of the Siamese King. |
| First Convert in Petchaburi | 1863 | Nai Kawn told missionaries McGilvary and McFarland that he believed by reading Christian tracts that Dr. Bradley distributed many years before. He never met Dr. Bradley but someone had given the tracts to Nai Kawn because he didn’t want them. |
| Earthquake in Bangkok | 1864 | A severe earthquake scared many people in Bangkok and those who did not like the modernizations introduced by King Mongkut claimed that the great fish in the Chao Phraya River turned over and shook the earth in response to a New Road that the King built on the east side of the river. |
| Daniel McGilvary begins work in Chiang Mai | 1867 | McGilvary is the first missionary to work in Northern Thailand. |
| Chulalongkorn the Great (Rama V) พระบาทสมเด็จพระจุลจอมเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว "พระปิยมหาราช" | 1868-1910 |  |
| First Church, Chiang Mai is Founded | April 19, 1868 | On April 19, 1868, Daniel McGilvary announced the formation of First Church, Chiang Mai, the first church in Northern Thailand. |
| Nan Inta is First Christian Convert in Northern Thailand | 1868 | Nan Inta believes that an eclipse is caused by a monster eating the sun, but when Daniel McGilvary uses modern science to correctly predict an eclipse of the sun, Nan Inta has serious doubts about his beliefs in astrology and Buddhism. He studies the Bible with McGilvary and becomes a Christian. On January 3, 1869 was baptized as the first Christian in Northern Thailand. |
| Noi Suriya and Nan Chai Become First Martyrs | Sept. 14, 1869 | Kawilorot, the prince of Chiang Mai is afraid of missionary influence over his subjects because some of them changed religions from Buddhism to Christianity. He ordered two Christians to be killed in order to send a warning to others who would be tempted to find another patron other than Kawilorot himself. |
| Doctrine of Papal Infallibility | 1870 | The Roman Catholic Church announces that when the Pope speaks "ex cathedra" (from the chair), his words are infallible. |
| Dr. Dan Bradley dies | 1873 |  |
| Siamese Hymnal | 1876 | Publication of first Siamese hymnal |
| Edict of Religious Toleration | 1878 | An edict of religious toleration issued under the authority of King Chulalongkorn brings an end to persecution of Christians in Northern Thailand. |
| First Government Schools in Siam | 1878 | Missionary S.G. McFarland resigns from American Presbyterian mission when H.M. King Chulalongkorn asks him to help develop government schools. |
| The First Church in Lampang is Founded | 1880 |  |
| Catholic Begin Evanglism in Isaan (Northeast Thailand) | 1881 | Catholics expand their work to the Northeast and establish a Catholic village in Ubon. |
| Siam Cedes Land to England and France | 1884-1896 | In the space of 12 years, Siam cedes 200,000 square miles of land to England and France in order to prevent colonization by either country. This agreement is satisfactory to both England and France who view Siam as a buffer state between their respective colonial assets. As a result, the overall land area of Siam decreases from approximately 500,000 to 300,000 square miles. |
| First Modern Hospital Founded in Ratchaburi | 1884 | Missionaries with the American Presbyterian mission establish the first modern hospital in Thailand, located in Ratchaburi province |
| McGilvary Theological Seminary Founded | 1889 | In 1889, a training center for Thai Christian workers was established in Chiang Mai. In 1912, the school was renamed McGilvary Theological Seminary and is currently the theology department of Payap University in Chiang Mai. |
| The First Church is Established in Chiang Rai | 1890 |  |
| Siriraj Hospital is founded as the first government hospital in Thailand | 1892 | King Chulalongkorn gives a royal grant of lumber as well as a large sum of money for the construction of Siriraj Hospital. |
| Entire Siamese Bible Published for First Time | 1893 |  |
| First Railroad Line in Thailand | 1893 | The first train line started at Hua Lampong and went to the river along the current Thanon Tang Rot Fai Khao Sai Pak Nam Road (ถนนทางรภไฟเข้าสายปากน้ำ). Train lines were later built from Bangkok to Ayuthaya (1894), Korat (1900), Petchaburi (1903). |
| First Church Founded in Phrae Province | 1894 |  |
| Evander McGilvary Resigns from Presbyterian Mission | 1894 | Evander, son of Daniel McGilvary, resigned from the American Presbyterian Mission because he could not affirm biblical inerrancy and he believed that his Buddhist language helper was already saved. |
| Nevius Plan Introduced in Thailand | 1895 | Nevius' plan of self-support, self-governance, and self-propogation introduced by American Presbyterian missionaries. The result was hurt feeling and misunderstanding because the plan was implemented too quickly without proper preparation. |
| Catholics Print Book Criticizing Buddhism and Thai Government | 1897 | Catholics publish book criticizing Buddhism and claim that the ruling class uses Buddhism to cover up social injustice, and support dictatorial rule. |
| Catholics Found "Mission Laos" as distinct from Mission Siam | 1899 | Catholic work in Isaan (Northeast Thailand) is now administered under “Mission Laos”, while Siamese-centered work continues under the existing “Mission Siam” |
| Boxer Rebellion | 1900 | Chinese resentment against foreign oppression results in mass violence against foreigners in China. Many missionaries and Chinese Christians are murdered by the Boxers, who see themselves as patriots. |
| Sueb (4th Presbyterian) Church Found in Bangkok by Boon Tuan Boon-Itt | 1902 | Rev. Boon Tuan founded the church which is now called Suebsampantawong Church (Thai: คริสตจักรสืบสัมพันธวงศ์), the fourth Presbyterian church to be started in the city of Bangkok, and the first church in Thailand to be established and support entirely by Thai Christians themselves, apart from assistance from foreign missionaries. |
| Seventh Day Adventist Missionaries Begin Work in Siam | 1905 |  |
| Asuza Street Revival | 1906 | Asuza Street revival launches Pentecostalism, and paves the way for the development of the modern charismatic movement. |
| Pyongyang Revival in Korea | 1907 | Over 50,000 people came to Christ in a single year (1907) as God greatly blessed the church in Korea. |
| Anglo-Siamese Treaty of 1909 | 1909 | The Anglo-Siamese Treaty of 1909 defined the modern border between Siam and British Malaya by securing Thai authority over the provinces of Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and Satun, which were previously part of Malaysia. |
| The Mission Siam (Catholic) Is Permitted to Offically Register as an Organization with the Siamese Government | 1910 |  |
| Publication of "The Fundamentals" | 1910 | In reaction to modernists who denied traditional Christian beliefs, a series of books called the "The Fundamentals" was published. The Five Fundamentals that modernists denied were (1) the inerrancy of Scripture, (2) the divinity of Jesus, (3) the Virgin birth, (4) Jesus’ death on the cross as a substitute for our sins, and (5) Christ’s miracles. These books helped define orthodox Christianity in contrast to modernist Christianity (also called liberalism). These fundamental beliefs are the foundation of the movement called “Fundamentalism” |
| World Missionary Conference in Edinborough | 1910 | Missionary from around the world meet together to plan and pray for evangelization of the world in the next century. Most attendees are European or American. |
| Trang Church Founded | 1910 | Missionary Eugene Dunlap and his wife founded mission station in Trang. |
| Reign of King Vajiravudh (Rama VI) พระบาทสมเด็จพระมงกุฎเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว | 1910-1925 |  |
| Daniel McGilvary Dies | 1911 |  |
| World War I | 1914-1918 |  |
| Russian Revolution | 1917 | Vladimir Lenin and the Communists take over Russia. Religion is suppressed, church buildings are destroyed, and Orthodox Christians are persecuted. |
| Reign of King Prajadhipok (Rama VII) พระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว | 1925-1935 |  |
| Centeniary Celebration of Protestant Missions in Thailand | 1928 | G.B. McFarland and other missionaries (mostly American Presbyterian) celebrate the 100th anniversary of Protestant missions in Thailand. They write a book about the first 100 years with an introductory chapter authored by Prince Damrong of the Siamese Royal Family. |
| Christian & Missionary Alliance (CMA) enters Thailand | 1929 | CMA work focuses in Isaan (Northeast Thailand). Rev. Robert Jaffray, a missionary to China, spearheaded the opening of new CMA work in Southeast Asia. |
| Great Depression | 1929-1940 | The Great Depression was a severe worldwide economic depression in the decade preceding World War II. Personal income, tax revenue, profits and prices dropped, while international trade plunged by more than 50%. Unemployment in the U.S. rose to 25%, and in some countries rose as high as 33%. |
| Formation of Siam Christian Council (สยามคริสต์สภา) | 1930 | The Siam Christian Council is formed as an alliance of various Protestant groups that will later become the Church of Christ in Thailand, the first Thai church denomination. |
| Catholics Begin Work in Chiang Mai | 1930 |  |
| Siamese Revolution (การปฏิวัติสยาม พ.ศ. 2475) | 1932 | Nearly bloodless coup changes government of Thailand from absolute monarchy to constitutional monarchy. |
| Formation of Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT) | 1934 | Churches started by American Presbyterians and American Baptists (Chinese) are formed into a Thai national church, formally independent from foreign missionary organizations. |
| Reign of King Ananda Mahidol (Rama VIII) พระบาทสมเด็จพระปรเมนทรมหาอานันทมหิดล พระอัฐมรามาธิบดินทร | 1935-1946 |  |
| Catholics Persecuted in Thailand | 1938-1941 | Field Marshal Pibulsongkram declares that Catholics are traitors who are loyal to France, which was an enemy just prior to Thailand’s entry into World War II through Japanese occupation. Two Catholic churches are destroyed and Thai Catholics are persecuted. Father Nicolas Kimbangrung died in jail during this persecution. |
| John Sung Revivals in Thailand | 1938-1939 | Chinese evangelist John Sung visits Thailand, preaching in Chinese churches in Bangkok, and other churches in Southern and Northern Thailand. Numerous people repent and believe in Christ, especially nominal Christians. Rev. Boon Mark Gittisarn and Rev. Suk Phongnoi assist as translators. |
| Siam Changes Name To "Thailand" | 1939 |  |
| World War II | 1939-1945 | Japanese occupy Thailand. Schools, hospitals, and church buildings are seized by the Japanese. Many Thai Christians distance themselves from the church to avoid persecution. |
| Franco-Thai War | 1940-1941 | The Thai army led by Field Marshal Pibulsongkram attacks the French army in Cambodia in order to take back land that formerly belonged to Thailand but had been seized by the French in the era of King Rama V. Thailand won and retained control over parts of present Western Cambodia until 1946. |
| Kenneth & Margaret Landon Resign from Presbyterian Mission in Thailand | Oct. 9, 1940 | Since the late 1800s, the American Presbyterian church became increasingly divided between liberals and conservatives. The Presbyterian missionaries were also divided. In 1940, Kenneth and Margaret Landon resigned from the American Presbyterian Mission in Thailand, asserting that mission secretary Paul Eakin openly opposed the work of evangelistic missionaries like them. |
| Japan Invades Thailand | Dec. 8, 1941 | Battles were fought in the Bangkok area and in Southern Thailand. The battles only lasted a short time and then a ceasefire was declared. Thailand remained under Japanese control unit the end of World War 2. |
| Thai Christians are Persecuted | 1942-1945 | Thai Christians are pressured to give up their faith. Christian schools, hospitals, and church buildings are seized by the Japanese occupation forces, and public worship is prohibited. Many Thai Christians distance themselves from the church in fear of persecution. Prior to the war the Church of Christ in Thailand had approximately 9,000 members, and at the end of the war it had approximately 6,000-7,000 members. |
| Wycliffe Bible Translators Founded | 1942 | Cameron Townsend starts a Wycliffe Bible Translators, a missionary organization focused on translating the Bible into local languages so that everyone in the world can read the Bible in their own language. |
| Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT) Recognized as Legal Entity by Thai Government | April 14, 1943 | The CCT pushed for legal recognition, and were finally granted the status of a religious organization from the government under the National Culture Council (สภาวัฒนธรรมแห่งชาติ) on April 14th, 1943. |
| Reign of King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great (Rama IX) พระบาทสมเด็จพระปรมินทรมหาภูมิพลอดุลยเดช "พระภัทรมหาราช" | 1946-2016 |  |
| First Pentecostal Missionaries Arrive in Thailand | 1946 | The Finnish Free Foreign Mission (FFFM), a Pentecostal group in Finland, sent Verner and Hanna Raassina, its first missionary couple, to Bangkok |
| World Council of Churches is Founded | 1948 | The World Council of Churches is formed as an interdenominational body promoting Christian unity and presence in society. The Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT) is one of the member denominations.\n\nThe World Council of Churches puts a greater emphasis on unity and the brotherhood of all people than they do upon doctrine and evangelism. For this reason, some Thai churches and Thai Christian pastors leave the CCT, including former assistant general secretary Rev. Boonmark Gittisarn, and Rev. Suk Phongnoi. |
| Communist Party Takes Over China | 1949 | Communist forces defeat the nationalists, and an era of Communist rule begins in China. All foreign missionaries are expelled. |
| Billy Graham Crusade in Los Angeles | 1949 | Evangelist Billy Graham becomes famous during his Los Angeles Crusade. He is the most well-known evangelical preacher in the 20th century, preaching to millions of people around the world. |
| Southern Baptists Enter Thailand | 1949 |  |
| OMF International Enters Thailland | 1951 | The first OMF missionaries who entered Thailand worked with tribal groups in the North since they worked with those same groups in China before the Communists drove them out. |
| American Baptists Re-Enter Thailand | 1952 | After nearly 100 years without resident missionaries, the American Baptists re-commence mission work in Thailand. |
| Kanok Bannasan (OMF Publishers Thailand) Founded by OMF Missionaries | 1952 | In 1952, OMF Thailand formed a literature committee to produce evangelistic literature, which later becomes Kanok Bannasan, currently one the largest Christian publishers in Thailand. Kanok’s first Thai general manager was appointed in 2003. |
| Thailand Baptist Theological Seminary Founded | 1952 |  |
| T.L. Osborn Crusades in Bangkok | 1956 | Osborn’s 15-day crusade in Bangkok helped birth the Pentecostal movement in Thailand, which had already begun with the work of Free Finnnish Foreign Missionaries |
| Boonmark Gittisan Founds Bangkok Church | 1957 | Bangkok Church is Thailand’s first independent church. Boonmark Gittisan (บุญมาก กิตติสาร) is influential in the emergence and development of Thai Pentecostalism . |
| American Presbyterian Mission Dissolved | Aug. 16, 1957 | The American Presbyterian Mission formerly dissolves its work in Thailand, and former missionaries become fraternal workers under the leadership and authority of the Church of Christ in Thailand. |
| Charismatic Movement Begins | 1960 | Charismatic renewal movement begins in Protestant churches. Believers in non-Pentecostal churches begin to report speaking in tongues and new experiences with the Holy Spirit. During the 1960s and 1970s, many churches become more open to charismatic gifts like tongues and prophecy. This movement also influences Roman Catholic believers. |
| Pentecostal Church Split in FFFM churches | 1960 | Rev. Boonmark Gittisarn introduces “Jesus Only” teaching and leads many Christians and churches out of FFFM group of churches, which up until this time was the only Pentecostal church group in Thailand. |
| Church Growth Movement | 1960-1990 | This movement was started by Donald McGavaran, who taught that missionaries should use sociology to better understand cultures so that they can have more effective evangelism. Some proponents of the Church Growth Movement are critiqued for relying on methods and techiques to grow the church, more than on God. |
| Second Vatican Council\n | 1962-1965 | The Roman Catholic Church makes changes to adjust to the modern world. Significant changes include celebration of the mass in local languages (not Latin) and a new attitude towards Protestants. Official doctrine condemning Protestants is not rejected, but the Catholic Church begins to talk about Protestants as “separated brothers” instead of heretics. Thai Catholic leaders meet to decide how to implement the new focus on modernization promoted by the Second Vatican Council. Church buildings, furnishings, equipment and arts were executed in Buddhist temple style. Buddhist terminology was used for names of priests and other clerical terms. |
| Disciples of Christ Mission Dissolved | 1962 | Disciples of Christ Mission is dissolved and churches formerly associated with the Disciples are received into the Church of Christ in Thailand. |
| The Pope Appoints Joseph Khiamsun Nittayo as the first Thai Bishop | 1965 |  |
| Phayao Bible Seminary Founded | 1966 | OMF Thailand fields built a residential Bible training center on the slopes Phayao lake near Chiang Rai; it was opened by John and Muriel Davis in June 1966 with six students. Basic Bible truth was to be taught regardless of previous levels of education. |
| People Movement in Uthai Thani Province | 1967-1974 | Many people come to faith in Christ and churches multiply in Uthaithani province as missionaries and Thai Christians evangelize diligently and encourage simple, reproducible church models. (Read more: “Strategy to Multiply Rural Churches” by Alex Smith, p.104-114) |
| The Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand (EFT) is Founded | June 19, 1969 | The E.F.T. was founded as an umbrella organization of evangelical Protestant churches and functions as a "congress" of missions, independent churches, and groups of churches. The EFT was formally recognized as a legal entity on June 19, 1969 the third major Christian group in the country. Rev. Suk Phongnoi was the first moderator. Some churches and Christian leaders who left the CCT in 1948 over ecumenical concerns become members of the EFT. |
| Thailand Congress on Evangelism | 1970 | 245 delegates attended the first national Congress on evangelism. |
| Bangkok Bible Seminary Founded | 1971 |  |
| Thailand Bible Society Publishes Thai Standard Version | 1971 | The Thai Standard Version (1971) becomes the most commonly used Bible translation in Thai churches. It stands in the literal textual tradition of the RSV. |
| Thai Christian Students (TCS) is Founded | 1971 | Thai Christian Students (TCS) is an independent Thai student organization in fellowship with the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES). |
| Thailand Church Growth Committee Founded | Dec. 1-4, 1971 | In 1971 OMF Missionary Alex Smith, assisted by the General Secretary of the CCT and the Chairman of Thailand Baptists (Southern) organized the first Annual Thailand Church Growth Seminar in Bangkok. This initiated the Thailand Church Growth Committee, which later added other church/mission representatives. This committee spearheaded inter-denominational efforts in training, evangelism and church planting in the 1970s and 1980s. |
| 1973 Thai Student Uprising (เหตุการณ์ 14 ตุลา) | Oct. 14, 1973 | The popular uprising of 14 October 1973 was a watershed event in Thailand's history. The uprising resulted in the end of the ruling military dictatorship and altered the Thai political system. Notably, it highlighted the growing influence of Thai university students in politics. |
| Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization | 1974 | Evangelical leaders from around the world gather to consider how to work together for world evangelization. This meeting started the Lausanne Movement, which continues today to co-ordinate evangelistic work between many churches and organizations around the world. |
| Khmer Rouge Kill 2 Million People in Cambodia | 1975-1979 | When the Vietnamese topple the imploding Khmer Rouge regime in 1979, large numbers of Cambodians flee as refugees to Thailand. Many hear and believe the Gospel in refugee camps along the Thai-Cambodian border. |
| Lux Mundi Seminary (วิทยาลัยแสงธรรม) was founded to train Thai Catholics | Feb. 2, 1975 | In 1975, Lux Mundi Seminary was established to train local Thai Catholics for ministry. Previously trainees had been sent to Penang or Rome. Training lasted eight years and aimed at a better understanding of their own culture for improved contextualization. |
| Lutheran Mission Begins Work in Thailand | 1976 |  |
| Towards New Life Evangelistic Campaigns | Feb. 1978 | Organized by the Thailand Church Growth Committee, this was the first nationwide evangelistic campaign in Thailand. |
| Second Thailand Congress on Evangelism | Nov. 27, 1978 | Congress held at YWAM Chiang Mai |
| Rom Klao Church Started by Wan Petchasongkram | 1979 |  |
| Prosperity Gospel | 1980- Today | Charismatic preachers and evangelists teach that if you have enough faith, God will give you good health and financial prosperity. This teaching is finding many followers among the poor in the developing world. |
| International Consultation on World Evangelization (ICOWE) | June 16-27 1980 | At this consultation, the Thailand Church Growth Committee organized seminars for Thai church leaders, using the international Christian leaders who were present for the consultation. |
| Hope of Bangkok Church Started by Kriengsak Chareonwongsak | 1982 | During the 1980s and 1990s, Hope of Bangkok church would become the fastest growing church in Thai history, with congregations throughout the country and internationally, numbering approximately 40,000 members at its height. The church associated splintered in 2008. |
| First Thai Cardinal, Meechai Kijboonchoo | 1983 | In 1983, Pope John Paul II installed the first Thai Cardinal, Meechai Kijboonchoo (มีชัย กิจบุญชู). |
| Associated Churches of Thailand (ACT) Founded | 1983 |  |
| First AIDS case in Thailand | 1984 | Many churches and Christian organizations in Thailand today minister to AIDS patients. |
| Ministry of Education issued directives that Buddhist terminology was not to be used by other religions. | 1984 | In 1984, Buddhist revivals were organized during the Visakha Bucha holiday. The government and the Buddhist monkshood debated the issue of other religions using Buddhist terminology. The Ministry of Education issued directives that Buddhist terminology was not to be used by other religions. However, Catholics continue today to use terms many Buddhist in their regular vocabulary. |
| Payap University Becomes the First Private University in Thailand | 1984 |  |
| Hope of Bangkok Church Suspended from EFT | 1987 | The EFT receives numerous complaints that members from Hope of Bangkok churches are stealing members from other churches. Dr. Kriengsak and other Hope leaders deny the allegations and meet with EFT leaders regarding this issue. The Hope of Bangkok church is disciplined and subsequently removed from membership in the EFT. |
| Congress 3 | 1988 | The Third Thailand Congress on Evangelism meets, with the theme of “Making Disciples Throughout Thailand.” |
| Congress 4 | 1991 |  |
| Lahu Baptist Convention Joins the CCT | 1992 |  |
| Black May (พฤษภาทมิฬ) | May 17-20 1992 | Black May is a common name for the 17–20 May 1992 popular protest in Bangkok against the government of General Suchinda Kraprayoon and the bloody military crackdown that followed. Up to 200,000 people demonstrated in central Bangkok at the height of the protests. The military crackdown resulted in 52 officially confirmed deaths, many disappearances, hundreds of injuries, and over 3,500 arrests. Many of those arrested allegedly were tortured. |
| Karen Baptist Convention Joins the CCT | 1995 |  |
| Pray for Thailand Prayer Network Begun | 1996 | At the encouragement of Peter Wagner and Yonggi Cho, Thai Christian leaders found the “Pray for Thailand” Prayer Network. This network succeeds in motivating increased prayer among Thai Christians around the nation. |
| Congress 5 | 1999 |  |
| Rhema Bible Training Center Founded in Bangkok | 2000 | Rhema Bible Training Center (Thailand) is an affiliate school of Rhema Bible Training Center in the United States, which was founded and led by Kenneth Hagin, an influential advocate for Word of Faith teaching. |
| Thailand Protestant Churches Coordinating Committee is Founded | 2002 | The Thai government requires the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT), the Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand (EFT), and the Thailand Baptist Convention to meet together as a Thailand Protestant Churches Coordinating Committee. Even those this committee was initially begun at the request of the Thai government, the three denominational groups were happy to work together and have continued meeting through the present time. Their work consists of co-ordinating interdenominational efforts at the national level for the purpose of promoting evangelism and discipleship nationwide across denominational boundaries. |
| Majority of Christians Live in Non-Western World | 2002 | The publication of Philip Jenkins’ book “The Next Christendom” makes many Westerners aware that 2/3 of all the Christians in the world now live in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Many believe that the future of Christianity will be shaped by these areas of the world, not by America and Europe. |
| Congress 6 | 2004 |  |
| Power of Living Evangelistic Campaign | 2004 | Arthur DeMoss Foundation advertises throughout Thailand, offering a free book called “Power of Living.” This book contains a Gospel message and testimonies from people about how God changed this lives. Between 1 to 2 million copies were given away. |
| Tsunami in Southern Thailand | Dec. 26, 2004 | After a tsunami destroys many homes and lives in Southern Thailand, 17 new churches were started in areas that were destroyed. |
| Coup d'Etat Removes Taksin Shinawatra From Power | 2006 | The 2006 Thai coup d'état took place on Tuesday 19 September 2006, when the Royal Thai Army staged a coup d'état against the elected caretaker government of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The coup d'état, which was Thailand's first non-constitutional change of government in fifteen years, followed a year-long political crisis involving Thaksin, his allies and political opponents and occurred less than a month before nation-wide House elections were originally scheduled to be held. It has been widely reported in Thailand and elsewhere that General Prem Tinsulanonda, Chairman of the Privy Council, was the mastermind of the coup. The military cancelled the upcoming elections, abrogated the Constitution, dissolved Parliament and Constitutional Court, banned protests and all political activities, suppressed and censored the media, declared martial law nationwide, and arrested Cabinet members. |
| 7th Thailand Congress on Evangelism | 2009 | Four thousand Thai Christian leaders came together at the 7th National Congress on Evangelism in Bangkok. This was the largest gathering of Thai Christian leaders in the 182-year history of the Thai Protestant Church. |
| My Hope Thailand Crusade | Dec. 2009 | The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) and Thai church leaders worked together for a nationwide media and evangelistic campaign, featuring local church evangelism training and videos of Billy Graham and Franklin Graham, together with testimonies of Thai Christians. Although 12,000 decisions for Christ were recorded, one year after the event, researchers discovered that the “My Hope” campaign had no noticeable impact on the number of baptisms in local churches. Churches that participated in “My Hope” and those that did not showed the same rate of growth. |
| Reign of Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun (Rama X)  สมเด็จพระเจ้าอยู่หัวมหาวชิราลงกรณ บดินทรเทพยวรางกูร | Oct. 2016-present |  |
| Protestant Christians Reach 0.74% of Thailand Population | 2018 | As of 2018, there over 486,000 Protestants in Thailand, or approximately 0.74% of the total population of Thailand of 65 million people. |

This timeline is available online at [www.thaichurchhistory.com](http://www.thaichurchhistory.com) and is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/). It may be freely distributed in either electronic or print format, provided that the website address is retained in the footer of the document. The text of this outline may be used for ministry and educational purposes without requesting permission, but you may not charge money for this outline beyond the cost of reproduction.