

## A CVT Mission Worker's Story – Ben Ewert



My time in Thailand as a CVT mission worker was a time of learning about myself. And I learned a lot about myself during the two years that I served there.

I learned that I loved the spontaneous hugs that first graders gave me when they got to know me and they loved the music that I shared with them when I played my guitar. I learned how challenging it was to monitor supplies in my apartment to ensure that I would not run out of toilet paper at a critical time simply because I had been too lazy to go shopping for more supplies during that week.

I learned that Sizzlers unlimited salad bar was an excellent way to make my food allowance stretch to fill my hungry body—though I still missed the Chicago Deep Dish Pizzas that are not a part of the food scene in Thailand. I learned that foods with funny names—like “som tom” and “moo ping”—are delicious and cost even less than Sizzlers salad bar.



I learned that news broadcasts filled with stories of street protests, *coups d'état* and martial law are scary when you live in the country they are talking about on the broadcast. But I also learned that street protests, *coups d'état* and martial law in Thailand are not the same and not as dangerous as they might be in other parts of the world.



My fondest memory is of the Songkran Festival in the spring. It is three days off from work, filled with buckets of water being thrown on everything that moves. The United States of America needs at least one day a year when we can pour buckets of water on other people and not be arrested for assault!

*Teach children in the right way, and when they are old, they will not stray.  
Proverbs 22:6*

*Ben Ewert, an American citizen, taught at Sajja Pittaya School in Bangkok, Thailand, and Udon Christian Wittaya School in Udonthani, Thailand, 2013-2015.*