

Mission in MEDICINE

BY LORI L. LIVENGOOD, M'02

Struggling with direction and purpose in his life, Greg Greer, G'90, said he felt called to medical mission at the age of 17 through a parable in the Sermon on the Mount.

"God challenged me to build my life on Him rather than on the sandy soil of worldly success," Greg said.

Greg met his wife, Archaree Hirankhap, G'90, during his sophomore year at Friends. Having always been interested in Asia he became much more interested in her home country, Thailand. Married in Bangkok, Thailand, during spring 1990, Archaree and Greg eventually settled into four years of private family practice in Kansas.

Now Greg is a part-time professor in the family medicine department at the University of Chiang Mai Medical School. With few residency-trained family physicians he helps develop and improve training programs.

"I thought becoming a family physician would prepare me for being the lone doctor in a little mission hospital out in the jungle somewhere," Greg said. "Little did I know that God had planned for me to be on staff at a medical training center."

Thailand is now home for Greg, Archaree and their three children. Archaree has served as a cultural guide, providing insight into how Thai people think, which helps keep Greg out of trouble most of the time. They visit Kansas when they can, and Greg's father Gary, G'62, his sister, Lori Hoppock, G'87, and Earnest Alexander, G'79, have all visited them in Thailand.

"We are always open to visitors, especially physicians or nurses who would like to participate in lectures or discussions with our physicians," Greg said.

Continuing to fine-tune his understanding of the language and culture, Greg seeks creative ways to use his experiences to build relationships with Thai physicians and other medical professionals. He is also working on a spiritual map of the city.

"I hope... that we could live in such a way that our neighbors and friends who do not yet know God will be drawn to Him," Greg said.