

Lek's Story*

Before coming to Tamar Center, I had no education so the only way I thought I could make a living was selling my body. For eight years I worked in the bars on Beach Road in Pattaya.

I did my best to take care of my three children during the day and I worked in the bars at night. Life was very hard. When I got HIV I had to stop working and could no longer take care of my kids so they had to stay in a shelter. I had no idea what I should do to support myself and my children until one day I heard about Tamar Center.

I decided to join the training program at Tamar Center. During the training I learned a lot about the Bible, about God and about his love for me. I asked God for two things: First, I asked for a strong body so I could learn and work. Second, I asked to be reunited with my three kids again. God answered both prayers! In the first three months of my training I gained 22 pounds and my health improved. I have also been reunited with my three kids and I am now able to take care of them.

Before the training, when my children's friends asked them what their mother did they couldn't give a good answer. Nowadays, they can proudly tell their friends that I am a hairdresser.

Through Tamar Center God has changed my life. I have a relationship with him now. I have received a lot of training, everyday I get to know God more and more and I have a good job as a hairdresser. I have God and I have my children, that's all I need. I'm very thankful for the people who looked after me. They not only helped me, but also helped my children. Before I had no hope but now I have a future with hopes and dreams.

*Name has been changed for confidentiality

Ways to help

1. Pray for Tamar Center
2. Buy or sell the Tamar Center's beautiful hand-made scarfs, jewelry, cards and other products: www.tamarcards.com
3. Organize a Tamar Center party at home to raise awareness
4. Sponsor one of our women attending our three-month training program
5. Help to fund the ministry by giving towards the running costs of Tamar (rent, electricity, water, salaries, materials, etc.).
6. Become a short-term volunteer or a long-term staff member

How to stay connected

Follow us on Facebook · Subscribe our newsletter ·
Come and visit us in Pattaya

If you would like to make a financial donation to the Tamar Center:

You can give online on our website

Pay Pal: info@tamarcards.com

Bank account in the Netherlands – please contact us for details

Bank Drafts and direct deposits can be sent to:

Bangkok Bank

Name: Project L.I.F.E. Foundation

Branch: Pattaya

No.: 484-414444-6

SWIFT code / Branch: BKKBTHBK / Pattaya

Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Contact:

P.O. Box 278
20260 Pattaya
Thailand

e-mail: info@tamarcenter.org
www.tamarcenter.org
www.tamarproducts.com



Tamar Center

Offering hope, healing and a new life
to the bar girls in Pattaya, Thailand

Every life counts!



Tamar Center Vision

Tamar Center was started in 1999 as a ministry of Project L.I.F.E. Foundation in Thailand. Our vision is to show the love and compassion of Jesus by offering hope, healing and a new life to the estimated 35,000 bargirls and ladyboys involved in prostitution in Pattaya. We do this by reaching out, building relationships, offering vocational training, counseling and providing Bible teaching.



Training Program

Twice a year, Tamar Center offers a three-month training program for the women and ladyboys who have chosen to leave prostitution. During this training, the participants receive counseling, Bible teaching and vocational training (hairstyling, baking, cooking, sewing and handicrafts). The goal of this training is to offer inner healing through a relationship with God and to teach new job skills so that the participants can provide for themselves and in many cases their children. We offer jobs in our businesses to the graduates of the training and help with further education. An onsite nursery provides childcare for the children of the women working with us. Bargirls who want to leave prostitution are welcome to join Tamar at any time. We provide housing for all the participants in our training and provide individual care.



Prevention

Most of the women and ladyboys who work in the bars of Pattaya come from Isaan, a very poor farming region in the north-east of Thailand. On a regular basis Tamar Center is sending outreach teams to visit the villages and family members of the participants of our training program. During these visits we are often able to see reconciliation between the participants and their families. Our teams also have the opportunity to be involved in visiting the villagers in their homes, run children programs and share the gospel. We are also trying to prevent more people coming into Pattaya by doing school visits and informing the villagers about the traps and dangers of coming to work in the sex industry.



Outreach

From our outreach center in the middle of the red light district we reach out to the women and ladyboys working in prostitution. Tamar Center staff visits them in the bars across the city to tell about the opportunity to change their lives and to share the love of God with them. In the outreach center we also run an English class and have a hairstyling salon, to build further relationships.

Pattaya

Pattaya City stretches for about 15 km along the Gulf of Thailand and is located about 100 km south of Bangkok. It is the unofficial Sex Tourism Capital of the world. More than 6 million tourists visit Pattaya each year. The main reason for most people to come is the nightlife of the city.

