

Missionaries' workshop helps members in Thailand with employment

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Ivy Rodrigazo projects a dazzling, confident smile. She recently completed a career training program conducted here by Elder Greg and Sister Carol Rempp, employment resources senior missionaries.



Church members in Thailand who have benefited from a career training workshop by senior missionaries Elder Greg and Sister Carol Rempp, front middle, are, back from left, Jirawat Saengsin, Sittisak Chamnanpong, and Sonkiart Poongam; front, Dang Koeysuwanm, left, and Apapohn Pinsakol. Photo by Elder Keith Hardy

Ivy, 23, was born in the Philippines. When she was 5, she and her brother were separated from their parents. They were sent to work and live at a peanut factory, sleeping at night nestled on a pile of peanuts. The factory environment was her home until she was 10.

Despite her challenging life as a young girl, she eventually graduated from Bacolod Sparta English Center as an English as a second language teacher. Because of the lack of available teaching positions in the Philippines, she moved to Bangkok in April 2008. After teaching English for three months at the International School in Bangkok and for eight months at another language center, she was dismissed because she lacked a work permit. When her work permit came through, she taught again at Satit Bangna School for another six months. With another layoff, she became very discouraged and lacked the initiative to try to find a new position.



Ivy Rodrigazo from the Philippines has been able to secure employment as an English teacher in Bangkok, Thailand, through the assistance of a career workshop training class under the direction of Elder Greg and Sister Carol Rempp. Photo by Elder Keith Hardy

As a faithful member of the Church attending the international ward in the Bangkok Thailand Stake, she enrolled in the career training workshop. With the help of Elder and Sister Rempp, she discovered a support system that helped her realize that through faith and prayers she could apply gospel principles to gain confidence in her own skills and project a joyful personality to promote herself favorably.

After the workshop, she was hired to teach English at the Sunflower Trilingual School where she receives room and board plus around \$600 a month. She is trilingual in Cebuano, English and Thai.

Already she has won the heart of her employer. His four-year old son requested that she be his teacher after being in her presence a short time.

She said that she has two specific goals for the future. One of her goals is to establish her own private English school and another is to take care of her parents in the Philippines.

She teaches the young women in her branch.

Sister Rodrigazo is not the only success story for Elder and Sister Rempp. They have aided several members to improve their employment. Dang Koeysuwanm, who felt she had few marketable skills, learned to project such a positive outlook that an international company hired her to promote their product. She now successfully travels to other countries as part of her employment.

Even members who already have positions have learned to be more conscientious employees. Instead of feeling negative about their employment, they now look forward to helping their company's progress and

are finding new ways to become an asset for their employers. They have discovered that a positive attitude opens doors.