

Pure Religion: 'To Relieve Suffering'

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They entered the office of the hospital administrator in Bangkok, Thailand, and sat down. "We are from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," they said, "and we have come to help."

"You're Christian?" he asked.

They replied that they were.

"Why are you here?"

Elder David H. Coombs explained that he and his wife, Sister Marva J. Coombs, were recently retired and serving a humanitarian mission for the Church. He explained that they had come from Washington, a small town in southern Utah, halfway across the world, to relieve suffering in Thailand.

"You understand that we are Buddhists?"

Elder Coombs smiled and told him that he was aware of that.

"Why would you, a Christian, want to help us?"

"Because," Elder Coombs replied, "it is a fundamental part of who we are as a people." He explained that they were seeking for ways to help the poorest of the poor and asked if there wasn't a group of patients who particularly needed help.

"There most certainly is," the administrator replied. "I have a cancer ward for children in this hospital. By law, I must accept all patients. But we don't have proper equipment to diagnose and treat them. We lost five children last year because we didn't have the proper equipment. You couldn't help us obtain that equipment, could you?"

Elder and Sister Coombs told him they would do the best they could. They submitted a request for humanitarian funds that was approved by the area president. It wasn't long before they went shopping. They found the needed machines at a discount and presented them to the hospital.

At a ceremony recognizing the gift, the administrator said, "This is a beautiful example of how Christians and Buddhists can work together. We are grateful you are here." — **Neil K. Newell, Welfare Services**