



JUSTICE SEMESTER HANDBOOK

What's In The Handbook?



We've tried to include as much helpful information as we can in this handbook. Click any of the topics below to jump to that page and find out more!

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ABOUT JSEM

The purpose of Justice Semester (JSEM) is to foster an opportunity for God to be glorified through education, exposure/experience, and discipleship. This is not your typical gap semester. The mission field in Thailand requires empathy, passion, and knowledge. There is no better way to embody these traits than to join the people who are fighting to break the chains of oppression on a daily basis. We want you to see first hand how God is working in Thailand, and to be encouraged to take the next step in His plan for you.

Our goal is for JSEM to be a discipling community God uses to transform all involved persons to be Christ-like. As we look into the Word of God we will learn how the complexities of culture, worldview, and sin relate to the problem of exploitation in Southern Thailand. We will see what steps can and are being taken to bring about life transformation. We want all involved to come out with a transformed worldview and a nurtured heart for missions according to God's Word.

JSEM offers a 12-week gap semester program that seeks to transform through personal discipleship, global perspective, Christ-centered mission mindset, biblical education, and the real life challenges of overseas justice and compassion ministries. **Be one of twelve students** engaged in what God is doing here in Phuket, Thailand.

JSEM is an initiative of For Freedom International Foundation, which exists to break chains of oppression so that people can encounter Christ, live in freedom and change the world. We seek to identify and develop future leaders who innovate, establish, and strengthen communities of faith.

To learn more, visit our website: <https://forfreedominternational.com/>

Please read this document carefully before you fill out the application form!
Questions? Email us at jsem@forfreedominternational.com

ABOUT JSEM

Who is JSEM for?

JSEM is for the person asking questions about their personal identity, such as: "Where do I belong?" and "What's my purpose?" and "What should I do with my life?" It's hard to know where to go for answers, and many people might never take the first step. JSEM utilizes the Word of God, personal discipleship, and experiential learning to help us discover God's answers to these crucial questions.

Semester Dates:

September 5th, 2022 - November 18th, 2022

Location: Phuket, Thailand

Age: 18-26 years old

Fees: \$10,700 Canadian*

\$8,400 US*

Fees cover: Bible courses, accommodations, insurance, and excursions.

Please see [Application](#) and [Finances](#) for more information.

*These costs are estimated and subject to change.

Curriculum

The full JSEM experience includes a wide variety of teaching, study and adventure trips. Participants will learn holistically through courses loaded with information, discussion, and application that is designed to give you a more comprehensive understanding of God, yourself, and the world.

- **Weeks 1: Onboarding** - Transition week to Phuket! Check out your new home, eat great food and get to know the JSEM community.
- **Week 2: This Is Thailand (Missiology)** - Explore the practical theology of the church's mandate, mission, and message. This is what we believe and how to apply it.
- **Week 3: Turn the Page: *How to Read the Bible*** - Learning *how* to read the Bible is a massive help in our walk with God! Equip yourself with tools and practices that will help decrease confusion in reading God's Word.
- **Week 4: Old Testament** - A week spent understanding God's continuity, goodness, and mission in the OT.
- **Week 5: Justice and Community Development Ministry** - Applied theology in defining justice and what to do in a world that struggles to know what true injustice is.
- **Week 6: New Testament** - You guessed it! Another week to explore God's continuous story...this time in the NT.
- **Week 7: Comparative Religions** - An overview of different religions from monotheistic, animistic, pantheistic and more. Know how the truth and grace of Jesus penetrates every culture and religion.
- **Week 8: Christian Spirituality** - Learn what it is to walk with God day by day, living the transformed Christian life no matter what is going on around you.
- **Week 9: Soul Care** - Personal assessments, spiritual gifts, and disciplines to help you know how God made, cares for, and sustains you.
- **Week 10: Upper Room Discourse Retreat**- This will be a great time to reflect and marinate on your JSEM experience in order to prepare to re-enter life back at home.

SCHEDULE

<i>Time</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
7:00 am	Quiet time	Quiet time	Quiet time	Quiet time	Quiet time	Quiet time	Quiet time
7:30 am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
8:30-9:30 am	Morning Prayer	Worship	Morning Prayer	Worship	Testimony	Off	Off
10-11:30 am	JSEM Lecture	JSEM Lecture	JSEM Lecture	JSEM Lecture	JSEM Lecture	Off	International Church
12 pm	Team Lunch	Lunch & Break	Lunch & Break	Lunch w/ mentor	Lunch & Break	Lunch	Lunch
1:30 pm	JSEM Lecture	JSEM Lecture	JSEM Lecture	JSEM Lecture	JSEM Lecture	Off	Off
3-5 pm	Journal and HW	Journal and HW	Journal and HW	Journal and HW	Journal and HW	Off	Off
6 pm	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
7-9 pm	Open	Outreach	Bible Study	Alternative Learning	Family Night	Open	Open

*Adventure Trips**

- Phi Phi Island
- Elephant Sanctuary
- Hiking and viewpoints around different parts of Thailand
- Beautiful Beaches of Phuket
- Canoeing through caves and hidden limestone bays
- Temples and waterfalls

*Adventure trips are subject to weather and current situations. While trips are not guaranteed, these are examples of the type of trips each class will participate in.

APPLICATION & FINANCE

Please apply online at <https://www.justicesemester.com/>

Cost: \$10,700 Canadian; \$8,400 US

\$1000 deposit due upon acceptance, remainder due 30 days prior to school start. Payment instructions will be sent upon acceptance.

Cost Includes:

- Tuition and administration fees
- Accommodation, food, and water
- Insurance (medical, travel, and COVID-19)
- Adventure trips
- Flights (up to \$1,400 Canadian or \$1,100 USD)
- Thailand smart phone plan
- Ground transportation

** Please note that these fees are tax receiptable.*

Accommodations

During your time in Thailand as a Justice Semester student, you will be staying in the dorm of our Ministry Center. A little bit about our building...

There are three rooms upstairs, with 4-6 beds in each, three bathrooms; and a lounge/common area. This will be your Justice Semester home.



Below your home is our classroom, the boardroom, staff office, intelligence center, and the Child Advocacy Centre. The kitchen is also outside on this floor. This is where any meals you have at the building will be held (primarily breakfasts).



The ground floor of our building houses our vocational training centers: **Grace Salon** and **Cornerstone Bakery**.

Our Ministry Center is located on Thanon Wirat Hong Yok, and is about a 20-minute walk from Phukettown (downtown area with local shopping/restaurants/cafes), Limelight Mall, and the Sunday Night Market. Closer to our building is O-Oh Farms (2 minutes), Naka Weekend Market (10-15 minutes) as well as many local food stalls.

PACKING LIST

Suggested Items

- Two forms of picture ID (passport and license)
- Unlocked smart phone and charger
- One sweater (for the airplane/ air-conditioned areas)
- Casual/comfortable shoes
 - Flip flops
 - Nicer shoes
 - Running shoes
- Casual short-sleeve shirts (quick-dry material recommended)
- More shorts than pants (one pair of dress pants for formal occasions)
- Swimsuit (rain gear can be purchased for less than a Snickers)
- Toiletries
- Medications/prescriptions
- Feminine products
- Sunscreen and insect repellent
- Spending money
- Bible, journal, pen
- Headphones
- Water bottle
- Sunglasses/hat
- Day bag (dry bag recommended)

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

By submitting this application, you are affirming your commitment to be part of a team. As a JSEM participant, you commit to providing financial support through personal sacrifice and/or fundraising. You are also expected to prepare yourself spiritually, mentally, and physically.

Spiritually: We expect that you have entered into this opportunity thoughtfully and prayerfully, and that you will pursue spiritual growth before, during, and after this experience.

Mentally: As a participant, you will be expected to demonstrate an attitude of service and flexibility by committing to serving those around you, understanding that changes will occur, and recognizing that personal comforts and preferences may not always be accommodated.

Physically: You are expected to prepare yourself physically for the demands of being in an unfamiliar environment. Exercise, vaccinations, and packing appropriate medications are part of physical preparedness.

Language & Culture: Take time to learn about the culture and people of Thailand. Learning some of the language and making an effort to understand and be sensitive to the culture should be part of your preparations.

Dress: Please dress modestly. No midriffs, cleavage (top or bottom). We have a casual atmosphere. Dress in a way that is respectful to both yourself and others.

See dress code below for more details

Relationships: We believe that your time at JSEM is a unique time in your life to focus solely on your relationship with God. If you do not have a relationship prior to coming into JSEM, we ask that you do not pursue anyone during this time. We hope that your intention is to get the most out of your relationship with God while you are here. If you have a relationship back home, we ask that you set healthy expectations of how much time you will be able to give to that relationship as you focus on your journey with Christ and your time here in Phuket. We hope that you would also have this same desire for your fellow students. There will be plenty of time after JSEM to seek God on this subject.

Dress Code

We are so glad you asked! In a world of fashion, trends, and different cultural norms, you'll see many different kinds of dress in Phuket. This is one reason why what you wear during JSEM and your time in South East Asia is so important. We appreciate the many of you who have reached out to ensure their style is appropriate. Here are some helpful tips for what to wear and not wear during JSEM!

In the Ministry Center common areas, please mind that you are living in close quarters with both guys and girls. Since this is where you are sleeping and doing life, casual wear is inevitable. But there are things we want to avoid. Example: short-shorts that are too short, leggings/yoga pants that are a couple sizes too small, going bra-less during the day, low-riding pants, tank tops that dip *really* low on the sides.

The Ministry Center is not only the place you live, but also where you go to school and the work space for all FFI staff. Therefore, dress throughout common areas/office space/classrooms should be professional-casual. This means always showing up to lectures clean and well-dressed, not in pajamas or sweatpants. We want you to be comfortable, we're not asking you to show up in a suit and tie.

When you're out in Phuket, consider the following: you are representing FFI. Therefore, you want to dress in a way that represents us well! In Thailand, the local people dress quite modestly. We don't expect you to dress exactly like locals, but, out of respect for Thais, we hope that you might consider them and the importance of modesty in Thai culture.

At the beach, modest, two piece bathing suits are fine for girls. Please avoid string bikinis, strapless bathing suits, and thong bathing suits when at the beach. Board shorts are best for boys, no tiny speedos please!

CODE OF CONDUCT

Behavior and practices expected of all JSEM participants:

- Pursuit a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a consistent example of a Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered, and Mission-focused life.
- Honor for all teammates
- Meet weekly with a mentor/accountability person.
- Speaking of For Freedom International, our staff, our partners, our programs participants, and other organizations with respect and honor in all forms of communication.
- Seek to understand the problem of spiritual, societal, and physical oppression in Thailand.
- Adhering to the Vision, Values, and Statement of Faith of The Alliance Canada ([See https://www.cmacan.org/what-we-believe](https://www.cmacan.org/what-we-believe)).
- Prioritizing attendance of all FFI team prayer and planning meetings.
- Regular attendance at a local church in Phuket.
- Recognizing that while some behavior and social conduct is acceptable in North American culture, activities that contradict Scripture, even if accepted by society, are not permitted. We take our cues from expected behavior of national believers and follow their lead. Note the specific behavior you will agree to below:
 - No consumption of alcohol or drug use (this includes marijuana)
 - Abstinence from pornographic material and sexual activity
 - No romantic relationships with JSEM participants or locals (this includes dating)
 - Limited social media usage (defined corporately)
- I understand that being part of the Justice Semester program is a privilege and unwillingness to adhere to this Community Life Statement may result in re-moval from the program with no tuition refund and associated costs incurred will be at my expense.
- I will maintain a posture of learning and flexibility. servant leadership.
- Cultural sensitivity. Choosing to see things from another's perspective.
- Positive speech (watch your mouth).
- Acceptance of leadership.

Classroom Etiquette

- Our classroom is designed to be a place where learning takes place. Many teachers with expertise in all areas will be sharing with us these next three months. To help maintain a learning environment, we ask the following of you
- Be aware in this wet and muddy climate not to track in mud. Accidents happen, but when they do, it is your responsibility to clean up the mess. Cleaning supplies will be made available in the back room of the classroom or in the housekeeping closets.
- Please pay attention to the speaker, make eye contact and be aware of your manners. These speakers have traveled along way to impart you with something.
- If any staff member is addressing the class it is most likely important, be quiet and pay attention so no information is unheard.
- During class time please be respectful of the speakers time. We encourage questions but make sure it is the right time to ask them. You can write your thoughts down and be ready to share them.
- Make sure that your question is a question, not a debate. It is fine to disagree with a speaker, but don't take away from everyone else's time. The speakers are willing to have one on one time. Also, your staff are available to process the information with you. If you disagree with a speaker, it doesn't make them wrong, it may just be a different way of thinking about God that you have never thought about. In other words, don't respond out of a reaction, take time to process with yourself, the speaker, and the staff.
- Bottom line, love and respect others.



Fundraising and Messaging

Once accepted into the JSEM program it's time for you to begin fundraising and communicating with potential donors. Here are some ideas to keep in mind while starting communication efforts and putting your newsletter together.

Tell your story: People love to hear how God has been working in your life. Share and be vulnerable. Keep your story clear and concise and only be really specific when necessary.

- How did you come to this opportunity?
- How has God been leading you?
- What are your passions and how does JSEM align with what you're interested in?

Share about FFI and JSEM: This is a great way to share more about where you are going and what you will be doing. Donors will appreciate clarity about who you are partnering with, what you will be doing, and what your needs are. Here some recommended talking points:

- For Freedom International is (for Americans) a 501(c)3 nonprofit; (for Canadians) a justice and compassion initiative of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Canada; (for Swedes) a charity. FFI "exists to break chains of oppression in Southern Thailand so people can encounter Christ, live in Freedom, and change the world." It is staffed by almost 20 people hailing from Thailand, USA, Canada, and Sweden.
- FFI work includes everything from vocational training (salon and bakery), to women coming from exploitative or vulnerable situations, Local outreach efforts in the red light district, and a government partnership to help counsel and guide abused children through a Child Advocacy Center representing southern Thailand.
- Justice Semester is an initiative of FFI to nurture a heart for missions and the global church, explore personal faith and formation, help young Christians discern ministry calling, and engage in an immersive study environment.
- JSEM is a trip that leads to more missions and kingdom building both in Thailand and back home.

You are living on a tropical island: If you're like us, you might get some feedback about JSEM being located on a beautiful island with beautiful beaches. There is no hiding this :) Feel free to bring this up to people before they do, or use the opportunity when brought up to share more about our mission field:

- Phuket is a beautiful island and one of the most heavily visited places in Thailand. But when you really get to know it, there's a lot more underneath the physical beauty.



- Due to the 'SU aXWgUSf[a` S` V`aTeZadSYW[` fZWag` fdkl_ [dhdWTkSfdW WWagefagdef babg'Sf[a` !Wā` a_ kl [fieUaSWa` VāXZWSdWf DW>[Yzf;` VgefW[` E7 3eSž
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Talk Numbers: No need to hide the need that you need money, people already know that. Fundraising is a part of JSEM and what a beautiful opportunity to trust and rely on Jesus and his affirmation of you going on this trip. Here are some ways to address this need:

- Ask people to **partner** with you in prayer and financially. They pray, they give. You pray for them, and you update and encourage them about what God is doing through your life and the ministry on the ground in Thailand through both JSEM and FFI.
- Don't see it as just writing people or asking people to meet, so you can ask them for money. See this opportunity as a platform to encourage them about what God has done in your life and what He is doing around the world.
- Ask them to "join in" in being a part of what God is already doing in your life and in Thailand.
- Boldly ask for money in your newsletter knowing that the worst thing that can happen is that they say no. Ask big. Even if they give half of what you ask, that's a success!
- Remember that God is working in the hearts of everyone and makes things happen for His purposes. If he wants you to go on JSEM, you will go on JSEM. :)

Meet with people: Schedule with your missions pastor, family, and other potential donors who might want to support you. Personal interactions go a lot farther than just a newsletter. Try both and add a phone call.

Final Thoughts:

- Remember all donations are tax deductible.
- See how your church can help and how you can encourage them in front of the congregation.
- Pray regularly for God to provide funding for you and others in your cohort.
- Remember to ask for prayer. We are praying for you. There is power in prayer!

A LETTER TO PARENTS

I remember being 12 and reading Breakaway magazine by Focus on The Family. They were advertising 2-3 month long international trips for young adults just graduating high school. As soon as I read about the opportunity, I told my mom I wanted to go. The feeling of excitement, the idea of adventure, risk, seeing and experiencing new things...it all swept over me in this indescribable rush. I knew I wanted to go! I immediately ran and asked my mom, who I am sure thought I was crazy, and she quickly dashed my dreams by saying, “no”. Of course this was reasonable as I was only 12, but she gave me hope. Her parting words to that conversation were, “when you graduate high school we can talk about it.” I never forgot. During my final high school year, the trips were still offered and my discernment process comprised of finding the most remote and difficult place I could find and off I went to Sao Tome, Africa. I would describe that trip as difficult, deep, adventure, Jesus, and transformation.

Those months changed the course of my life.

Now, decades later, I have the great privilege to be writing to you about this opportunity for your young adult child to “*Adventure deeper with Jesus*” as part of the Justice Semester of For Freedom International (FFI) and Envision Canada. For Freedom International is a justice focused ministry located in Phuket, Thailand. It was started by my wife and I when we moved our family to Thailand. We are sent, as International Workers of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Canada and serve as Team leaders for the C&MA team in Thailand in addition to leading the larger international team of FFI. Prior to Thailand I served as the executive pastor of Beulah Alliance Church in Edmonton, Alberta. The Justice Semester (JSEM) is a GAP semester program we offer to 18-24 year olds to foster an opportunity for God to be glorified through education, exposure and experience, transformed worldview, and a nurtured heart for missions.

Please accept this letter as my heartfelt promise to you to do our best to create, not only a safe and memorable GAP semester for your young adult, but my personal promise that we will work hard to create environments for him or her to go deep with Jesus. I promise this, because my experience was life changing and impacted the trajectory of my life from that moment onwards. In all of this, we do seek to have fun, to learn, to be challenged, but ultimately, it is our desire to build into your son or daughter, this up and coming next generation of young leaders, who are passionate about making Jesus more famous each and every day. To that end, know that we are praying for you and also your son or daughter as they discern His next steps.

For Him,

Darren & Naomi Herbold
 Directors - For Freedom International
 Reverend and C&MA Thailand Team Leader

FAQ's



Passport + Visas: Before traveling to Thailand, ensure there are at least 6 more months before your passport expires. If there are less than 6 months before it expires, you may have difficulty entering the country, and your entry could possibly be refused. We will send you info on how to take care of your visas, but plan on \$80.00 USD.

We will also keep you updated with travel restrictions and recommendations. These things are subject to change according to government policies, and we will communicate these changes with you through regular correspondence as you apply.

COVID-19 and Vaccines

JSEM's safety plan is to take the necessary precautions to prevent COVID-19 for any of our students or employees. We will maintain high standards of hygiene, cleanliness and proper social distancing to thwart illness. We will strive to uphold CDC and Thailand government standards. As changes occur regularly, communication is key as we operate almost daily in our limited space. Per information from the CDC, it is preferred for students to be vaccinated upon arrival, but we also understand that this is a personal choice and thus not a requirement.

Presently, each person entering Thailand, must have a letter stating that they have at least \$50,000 USD in COVID-19 coverage. Our office/student accommodation building fulfills all government standardized measures for temperature reading upon entry, hand hygiene solution, building and personal cleanliness, adequate ventilation, and social distancing practices. Revisions and updates will be duly noted. Do not hesitate to ask any questions in this regard.

Other Vaccinations

Please have up to date vaccinations. We also recommend getting Twinrix.

Money Questions

The currency in Thailand is the Thai baht. The exchange rate hovers around 25 baht to 1 Canadian (33 baht to 1 USD). Credit cards can be used in Thailand, and there are ATM machines available. Please check with your bank or credit card company about international fees and inform them of your travel plans prior to departing. To withdraw from any ATM, there is a local fee of approximately 200 baht (\$7.70 Canadian; \$6.25 USD), but you can withdraw up to 20,000 baht (\$770 Canadian; \$625 USD) per transaction. If you prefer to bring cash and exchange it, be prepared to bring cash in new \$100 bills, as they have the best exchange rates. Travelers typically spend a couple hundred dollars for gifts and snacks. There are 7-Eleven and other convenience stores everywhere, so you can buy snacks whenever you want during your stay.

Communication

You will have access to Wi-Fi at accommodations, class, and shop local shops (coffee, etc.). There will be enough access to upload photos and let your family know that you made it. Please bring an ***unlocked*** smart phone so you can get a prepaid SIM card and use your phone in Thailand.

FAQ

Power

Thailand's voltage is 220V 50 Hertz. The plugs in Thailand are not standardized -- there are at least three different types. The most common one is a plug that has two, circular, pins and some three, so be sure to either bring a universal adapter. Sometimes you can jam your iPhone plugs into the wall, but it's not a best practice. You can also purchase adapters once you arrive.

Dietary Restrictions

Please let us know your dietary restrictions. We want to know. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to accommodate all food restrictions. It is recommended that you bring your own supplements or snacks if you have a specialized diet. If you have any specialized, medical diet restrictions, please ask as part of your application if they can be accommodated.

Medical & Allergies

Thailand has some of the best hospitals and medical care in all of SE Asia. There is also an abundance of pharmacies available should any medication need to be purchased. For those with allergies, please inform us of the severity and type of allergy in your application. One of our staff members is and has been a registered nurse for over 30 years.

Discipleship

We have built in intentional meetings (lunches) between students and For Freedom International Staff and C&MA of Canada international workers. These lunches are designed to be a time of talking through issues; whether they are fears, questions, or strengths/weaknesses. We want to help you learn, grow, and see you live the abundant life God wants for you. It can also be a time to discuss your future, so we can help encourage, affirm, and strengthen you in regard to the gifts God has placed in you and the way he has made you. We hope to encourage lifelong change in you as you continue to grow after JSEM. This is a time set aside to hang out with intentionality and purpose.

Airport + Arrival Information

The Phuket International (HKT) airport has just added a beautiful new terminal. After going through immigration, you will gather your luggage and exit. Before you arrive the site directors will send you a photo of the person picking you up.

CONTACT INFO



Site Co-ordinator: Tim Moore

Tim and his wife Nancy moved from Calgary to Phuket in January 2020 to serve with For Freedom International and Envision Canada, after over 39 years of ministry with the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

In addition to serving as a Youth Pastor, Tim served as a professor at Canadian Bible College, Canadian and Theological Seminary, and Ambrose University. Nancy's ministry in Thailand is caring for cancer and acute cardiac patients as a Registered Nurse. They are both thrilled to intentionally disciple, mentor, teach and pastor the young adults who attend Justice Semester.

tim@forfreedominternational.com

WEBSITES:

JSEM

For Freedom International



Ministry Apprentice: Chris Coddling

Chris worked as a wildland firefighter for 6 years while he also enjoyed being involved in camp ministry, personal discipleship, and informal teaching. He started serving at FFI when he moved from California to Phuket in May of 2021. Now, he's stoked to use the truth and lessons God has taught him in order to serve the folks attending JSEM!

chris@forfreedominternational.com

SOCIAL MEDIA:



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