

Profile of a Coach: Meet Kruu Jed

How an ex-Muay Thai fighter is affecting the lives of young people, their families and their communities for Christ

By Erin Kranz and Cat Edwards



What do an ex-professional Muay Thai fighter and a loving football coach have in common? They are both embodied by Kruu Jed – a godly coach from the local church.

Kruu Jed, who at one time was a top contender in Thailand’s national sport, Muay Thai (boxing), has now turned to leading the sports ministry at his local church for the young people in his Karen Hill Tribe village. Following a Sports Friends training, he became convinced of the power of sport for reaching the next generation in Thailand with the Gospel and at the same time teaching them life-skills which extend far beyond the football field.

His passion is to mentor these young people to be future leaders in their communities – while also giving them an understanding and appreciation of their beautifully rich Karen culture. Kruu Jed himself embraces all things Karen – from his clothing to his motorbike adorned with traditional instruments, baskets and symbols.

It isn’t hard to see why he is something of a celebrity in the village...

A number of the young people Kruu Jed coaches are orphans, some come because they have issues or bad situations at home, and others have been put into his care by parents who see the positive benefits of his coaching and mentoring. As his ministry grows, parents of the young people and volunteers from the community are helping to construct a new house where 28 of the young people can live together and be mentored by Kruu Jed. His ministry is his life: he is committed to investing in each of these young people’s lives, and to growing them into the future godly leaders of Thailand.

Coaches from local churches all over Thailand are being trained by Sports Friends to be godly mentors like Kruu Jed - transforming young people’s lives, their families’ lives and entire communities for Christ.

Find out more: sports-friends.org
Sports Friends is a ministry of SIM: sim.org



Kruu Jed on his Karen-style motorbike



The new house under construction



Some of the young people Kruu Jed currently coaches



