

testimony of your desire to become one of them & of your respect for them, & of your lack of a feeling of racial superiority. It is a very good way to show your love.

Always take your shoes off before entering a Thai home as their floors are usually kept immaculately clean. Of course they'll do the same when coming to your house & also expect your floors to be just as clean.

Don't touch Thai's heads for reasons already explained. Females don't touch Buddhist monks at all nor should males touch Buddhist nuns in any way. Only members of the same sex can give lit to them or hand them anything.

Thai women usually don't like to be seen in public with white men (even my 56yr. old mother-in-law) for fear of being considered a whore. They also usually don't like to be touched by men in public, unless they are whores. That means most will not like holding hands or having your arm around them in public.

On busses the custom is to give a seat to children & the elderly, women who are pregnant or with a small child. Giving your seat to a woman is optional but still considered a sign of consideration for the weaker sex. Women's liberation has not made much progress in Thailand. It is also considered low class to publicly ogle or flirt & offensive to wink or whistle.

Beards & moustaches are generally not liked at all & are considered dirty & "hippy-ish". They are the standard sign for a gangster or a playboy & all the bad guys in Thai movies have 'em & often with a bald head to accent 'em even more!

Only children wear shorts publicly as a rule. Thais are usually very smart dressers & like well clothed men & women. Well ironed clothing is expected. Be sure to take many show-

When eating a meal with Thais take small portion from the serving dish at one time. Don't take all you intend to eat at that meal at one time, in the beginning, like we do in the west, as this is a sign to them that you are afraid you won't get enough & is considered selfish. It is also a very good way to ensure everyone gets a fair amount of food & no one goes hungry while another is stuffed to the gills. When finished, lay your spoon, fork, or chopsticks on your plate with the handles facing your left hand. You are expected to make as little noise as possible when eating with either your mouth or utensils. Burping is not polite. When no serving spoons are presented, everyone uses their own spoons to serve themselves from the serving bowl.

Here we have what is referred to as "Thai Time" meaning they are usually late if they come at all. Expect this but don't be guilty of it yourself. Thailand is often called the Land of Smiles because they believe in always smiling even when hatred or boredom is in their hearts! A common Thai complaint is that foreigners are so serious. They like to joke & enjoy life.

Women are supposed to sit with their feet & knees together slightly pointing to one side. When women wai they also bend their knees slightly & bow lower than men.

SECURITY

There have been some investigations by the police over the years, some people deported & others refused extensions on their visas. The Evangelicals & Churches are rabid enemies of the Family here so be very cautious in any dealings with them. Be very careful about names, addresses & phone numbers & have them in a safe place preferably your head. Homes have been broken into

every day to keep the smell away. At least two a day is the minimum. Use deodorants, anti-perspirants, cologne, perfume & powders liberally & frequently. Eat yogurt often to avoid bad breath. You'll need to change your shirts at least once a day as well as your underwear. Shirts should be tucked in unless they are Hawaii type. It is not polite to be shirtless at home when visitors come.

When you pass between people conversing, lower your head & shoulders by slightly bowing when you go by. You should give a wai in appreciation of gifts received & it is customary to present a gift when calling at a friend's home. (e.g. a kilo of oranges).

Respect the Monarchy & Royal Family & don't discuss it, as negative remarks can get you in a lot of trouble! Stand at attention whenever the Royal or National anthem is played. If you display a picture of the Royalty it must be in the main room of the house, opposite the entrance, on the wall, at high & respectful height. However it is not necessary to display it. Don't preach against their religion, just lift up Jesus.

The feet are considered the basest part of the body & are never to be lifted off the floor & put on anything else. Nor are they to be used for anything like touching or pointing. Pointing the soles of your feet at someone is the Thai way of giving someone the "finger" we use to say "fuck off, screw you, kiss my ass, etc." It is the most debasing & filthy sign they have to show contempt so watch the soles of your feet & where you point 'em.

Try not to show anger, frustration, or loose your temper, use a loud voice, or discipline your kids in public. Kids are not allowed to run, scream or yell in a house.

by thieves many times & some homes have been completely cleaned out including their spectacles & even their gas tank & shoes. So don't over-estimate your security. Others have been mugged, held up at gunpoint (M-16's!), & pick-pocketed. So pray without ceasing & be aware of the dangers around. Avoid getting into potentially dangerous situations. Many new disciples have had serious problems so be very wise in how you handle these too. By serious I mean kidnapping & threats at gunpoint! Keep your bags snugly under your arm with your arm over it in front of you. Be wary of spies from the Churches or Romans & always be ready for the "Empty Wind".

MISCELLANEOUS

Bangkok is only about 10% of Thailand. 45 million Thais live outside the capital. Of the few million pieces of lit that have been distributed, probably half of it has been distributed in Bangkok if not more.

There are 7 universities in Bangkok: Mahidol, Ramkhamhaeng, Chulalongkorn, Thammasat, Kasetsart, Silpakorn, & Srinakharinwirot. There are 3 outside of Bangkok: Khonkaen, Chiangmai, & Songkhla. Bangkok has 3 parks: Lumpinee, Siam & Chatuchak & two amusement parks called Happy Land & Magic Land. There are three major bus stations: Northern, Southern & Eastern, each one servicing that area of the country. There are also good railway links to most parts of the country as well as airconditioned tour busses.

There are busses & air-con busses servicing all parts of Bangkok. Bus guides are available for purchase. All imported items are very expensive. Healthfoods are available at the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital on Phetburi Rd.