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“Home: We Can Rest Here”

Prior to living in Thailand, Allan and Joan's individual life paths were seemingly heading in different directions. Allan was an engineer determined at making a million in the oil business. Joan was a rising star amid the screens and stages of Broadway and the UK.

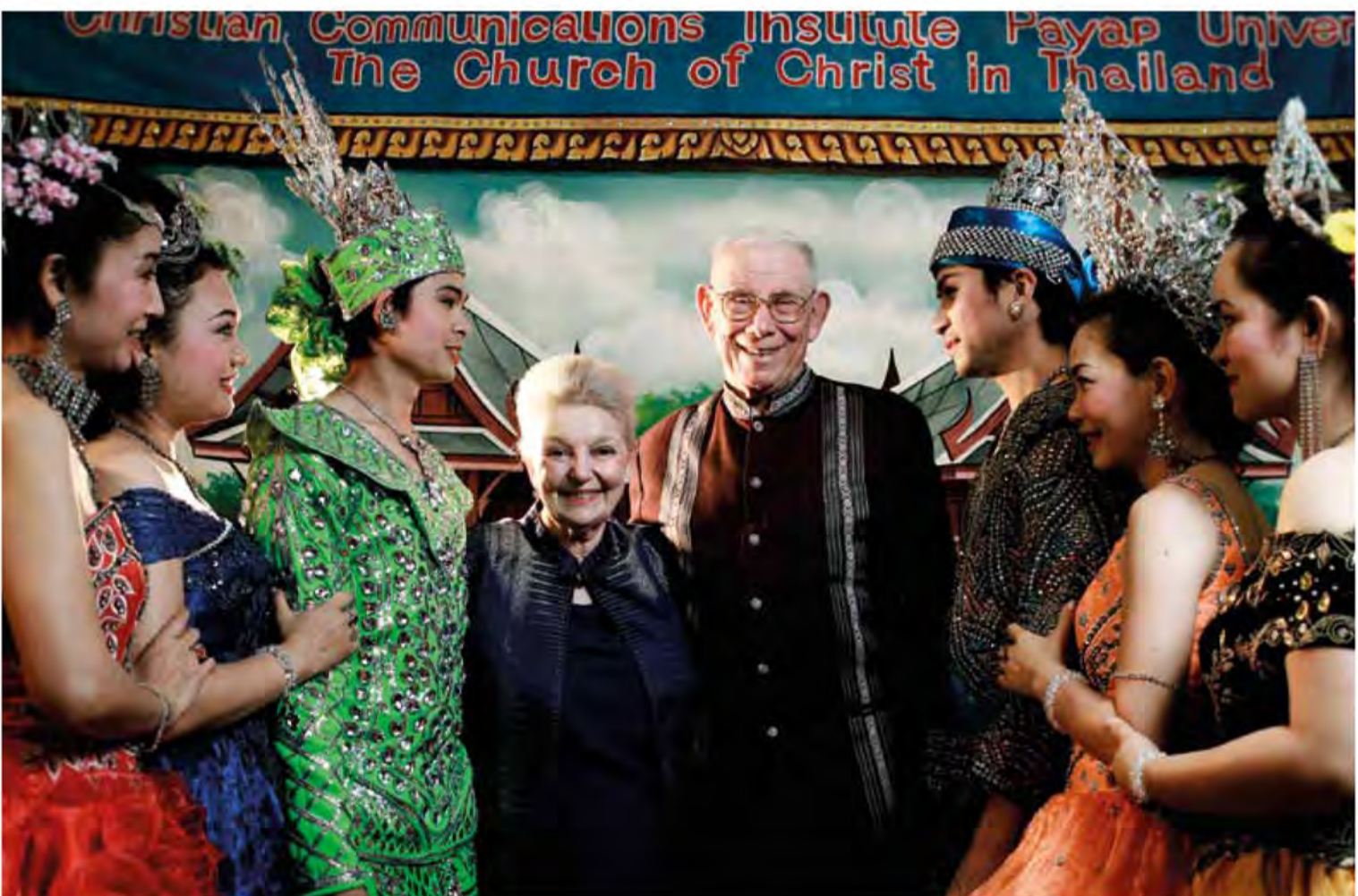
They had first met in Korea, where Allan was a soldier and Joan was uplifting his Army Company's spirits with song and dance. Allan was instantly struck by her presence but figured "there was no chance" they'd meet. Well, they did get to know each other a bit and then continued with their individual lives.

Allan was later working as a geologist for the Army Corps of Engineers. Carrying a torch from his and Joan's Korea encounter, he ventured off and located her. After one week, they once again separated. He returned to Texas and worked in the oil industry - later leaving this stage of his life for walking the road of Evangelism.

While he was earning a Master's Degree, Joan was performing at a theatre a mile from his university. They reunited and soon became engaged. Joan eventually finished honouring her entertainment contracts and also "left this life."

They were ordained, married and then traveled to Thailand. All else is history.

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“ Deep down, we feel this is where we are called to stay. ”

This was in 1961. And as their plane from Texas, U.S.A. soared over the rice fields of Central Thailand, they both knew they were coming "home." Their purpose in Thailand was just beginning - even though their love for this country had seemingly been instilled long ago.

Together, they learned a new language and then lived in a remote village where the tribespeople were apparently expecting "a white man" - even before Allan and Joan were aware they would ever be in Thailand. In this area, they taught at schools, helped build new ones, started and grew churches, as well as raised children (both theirs and others').

In 1971, they moved to Chiang Mai where they used their combined talents to grow a seminary, assist with building the foundation of what is now Payap University and establish a mission that uses the Performing Arts for communicating with the Thai people, whom they love with all their hearts.

Fifty year later, they feel the same way as they did when they first arrived in Thailand - as though at home. "God put love in our hearts for Thailand, and we later met the people. And we have learned a lot about love from them."

Although they formally retired in 1994, the Eubanks continue supporting the Christian missionary field; teaching; caring for disabled and elderly people; remaining on various committees and continuing involvement with their Thai village-church, located outside Chiang Mai city in the direction of Doi Saket. "We all have a reason for living. And our reason is in Thailand...relating to the Thai people in all ethnic groups. We were born to do this, and we enjoy it. Deep down, we feel this is where we are called to stay."

Their reasons are multiple. One justification is that Chiang Mai is a "comfortable place to be" - in the sense that it's a big city-small town where their needs are being met. And Thailand's cultural fabric supports them, especially in the sense that Thai society is highly respectful of older people.

They are relishing in there being both authentic Thai and Western communities here, combining to create this area's overall culture. They appreciate being well-connected. And have earned much love and respect from others throughout five decades of service. They humbly say: "People respond to us; we respond to them."

The Eubanks aren't going anywhere else. Rooted, they sold their cemetery plots in Texas and have transferred their burial affairs to Chiang Mai. "God called us here...There's freedom here...We can rest here."

"For detailed information about Allan and Joan Eubank's life, read: "Where God Leads...Never Give Up," "God! If You Really Are God...Ask and Receive," and "Dance-Drama Before the Throne: A Thai Experience." All are authored by Allan Eubank.

