



The city of Pattaya in Thailand is home to thousands of vulnerable women. Most go to Pattaya hoping to improve their economic situation. They find themselves under pressure to raise money to support their families. With low education and no skills training, many women do not have a wide range of employment opportunities open to them; therefore they are forced into work which exploits them mercilessly.

In the centre of the Pattaya, a small group of nuns are making a difference. They are the Good Shepherd Sisters. They run a centre called the Fountain of Life, which aims to empower vulnerable women through education and vocational training.

The nuns who run The Fountain of Life are committed to the Good Shepherd tradition of compassion and reconciliation, and are convinced of the continuing importance of this gift to the world.

Jesus told this parable: *"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'*

This parable resonates with The Good Shepherd Sisters motto at The Fountain of Life:

***"One person is of more value than the whole world"***

Sister Supaporn, the director of The Fountain of Life, shows us an example of this in action within their work.

*"In August, we interviewed one of our women. She expressed, "I wish I could just walk into the sea and finish everything."*

*After we heard her story, we got to know that she had sold noodles before she came to work in Pattaya and she wished to do that again. We saw the possibility and supported her in setting up her business, selling noodles. It has been nearly a month and she is doing well. I went with one of our staff to visit her today and she was very happy to see us. We brought back noodles for our staff with joy in our heart. Another one is rescued!"*

*For the Good Shepherd Sisters in Pattaya, no woman is beyond help or hope. Their work can help to remind us that God, in His love, never abandons us. Please remember The Good Shepherd Sisters and their work in your prayers.*

*For information on how your church can help further please contact:*

*Ruth Flanagan tel: 020 7602 6203*

*email: [rflanagan@thaichildrenstrust.org.uk](mailto:rflanagan@thaichildrenstrust.org.uk)*

*Thai Children's Trust,  
124 North End House,  
Fitzjames Avenue.  
London  
W14 0RZ*