

Thesis Title A Comparative Study of the Propagational
Method of Buddhism and Christianity in Current
Thai Society : A Case Study of Wat
Chonlaprathanrangsarit Amphoe Pakkret
Nonthaburi Province and the Sacred Light
Baptist Church Thonburi District Bangkok

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Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to study the propagational method of Buddhism and Christianity in present day Thai Society. The focus is placed on Wat Chonlaprathanrangsarit Amphoe Pakkret, Nonthaburi and the Sacred Light Baptist Church Amphoe Thonburi, Bangkok.

This thesis is divided into two sections. First, the documentary research is limited to the study of Tipitaka and Christian Bible, only on the area of dissemination methods in the early period as well as disseminator's techniques. Second, the field research focuses on interviews with the abbot of Wat

Chonlaprathanrangsarit, Pastor of the Sacred Light Baptist Church and their randomly selected disciples as well as the document of progressive chart in both organizations.

The findings from the document indicate that both places on emphasis on dissemination. The Buddha and Jesus Christ surprisingly share the similar methods, namely, approaching the leader of the communities, revolutionizing the old teachings and introducing the correct findings, door to door visit, community services, miracle and religious dialectic dialogue. They also invited their disciples to assist them in the process of dissemination. At present, both organizations still employ the similar strategies, however, Christianity employ more of new advanced technology whereas Buddhism remain faithful to the tradition. It is noteworthy that they have adapted their strategies and relied on more recent advanced technology, namely, attractive publications, the employment of several mass media, as well as different public services.

From the field research, the findings indicate that both organization share the similar ideal, that is, the implantation of goodness of moral character. It is interesting to point out that Wat Chonlaprathanrangsarit put much emphasis on the stimulation of awareness among Buddhists to what the teaching of Wat Chonlaprathanrangsarit really are in comparison with the fact that the Sacred Light Baptist Church aim mainly at personal conversion. Moreover, it is also worth mentioning Wat Chonlaprathanrangsarit inspite of using the above mentioned strategies, they find more success on personal dialogue approach. The actual work is not aiming for conversion but mainly teaching the right concepts whereas The Sacred Light Baptist Church fight an uphill battle of conversion which the result is not quite satisfactory.