

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 0

# WATERFALL *within*

AMY STRAYER'S  
MUSINGS ON THE  
JOURNEY OF LOVE



## Beauty Hunt on Soi 6 ✕

### **Soi 6**

Overhead hang signs with names like, "Route 66," "The Amsterdam Experience," "So What Bar," "Red Light Bar," and around 60 more with names like these but worse, all in less than a quarter of a mile.

At 10:00am, Soi 6 is relatively quiet. A few girls and "gals" in skimpy uniforms bathed in the morning sunlight sit outside the closed doors or drawn curtains of their bars, inviting passerbys to enter. Few take notice when I pass. I am after all, far less likely than a man to go with them beyond the veil into the darkness that waits inside. One of the girls decides a foreigner is too much of a catch to let pass, and she approaches and strikes up a conversation. When he tries to head further down the Soi, she grabs his arm and pulls with all her weight to try and keep him there.

A masseur notices my passing and calls out, "Hello, madam! Massage?" I politely decline. Maybe on a different Soi where I'm more likely to get nothing extra.

By 10:00 pm, pounding music pours from behind closed doors. The Soi is lined by girls and "gals" on both sides in skimpy uniforms, inviting all who pass by to step beyond the closed doors or curtains into the darkness beyond the veil. If one does not keep moving quickly, the street begins to feel like quicksand beneath one's feet.

With a darkness so thick that even on the brightest of days there seems to be a cloud over this street, it is easy to feel overwhelmed here. And so I pray. I pray for freedom to reign here. I pray for light and truth to shine here. I pray for God's love to be spread abroad in these hearts.

The other day, I went on a prayer walk alone here. I have grown weary of walking this strip alone, so I almost didn't go. But I felt God challenging me to find beauty in Soi 6.

### **Marsha**

In the middle of all the darkness, there is still beauty. "Her" name is Marsha. She is one of the ones who works right near the Tamar Center which houses the Pattaya House of Prayer (PHOP). She's seen us all



coming and going for a long time and hadn't approached till the day Papa told me to find beauty here. And we didn't talk for long, just a few minutes. She met three of the MKs that I've grown very close to in the last few months the other day and wanted them to kiss her. She wanted to be a mother to them. Probably because she will never have children of her own. I saw Marsha again as I was leaving PHOP the other night. She was having a rough night and confided that she was really sad because her customers were just sweet talking. She let us pray for God's love to invade her heart and said she felt better.

### **Sai**

"Her" name is Sai, which means "sand." She said I could call her Sandy if I couldn't remember her Thai name. She invited me to sit with her for a bit. We ended up chatting for a half hour. She didn't ask me if I wanted something to drink, which meant she saw me as a friend and didn't care if I added to her wallet. She is from Southern Thailand. Her mother is a Muslim, so she is a Muslim. She is the oldest of three daughters. Her father has been absent all of her life. She said she likes Pattaya because she can work here. At her home village she cannot work like this. Her mother does not like her working like this, though, since her mother is a Muslim. When I asked her what her dream was, she said she didn't have one. She just wanted to live for today. I asked her where she saw herself in five years. And she said she just wanted to go home with enough money that she could stay in her village and take care of her mother and sisters.

### **Broken Ones**

They are on each corner. In each bar. On each soi. And in each broken one, there is still beauty. The Father's overwhelming love for each one is pursuing them, yet so many still are unaware. Will you join with me in praying that they will find True Love? Blessings!

*Amy Strayer*

*please pray...*

Praise God with me for His provision! I received funds beyond what I expected the last two months and am well funded until I return to the States on December 10.

Agree with me for wisdom as to what God's next steps for my life will be.

Pray for encouragement, strength, health, and protection for the remainder of my time in Thailand as I continue serving in Pattaya and travel throughout Thailand to serve with other ministries.

Pray for grace for our team as we experience more transitions in team dynamics.

Believe with us for favor with government officials during this year's Pattaya Praise (November 10-13) as we have received permission to worship in City Hall and at the Pier.