

Guidelines for studying with Ajahn Pichet Boonthumme

By Bob Haddad

To study with Ajahn Pichet, you should either call or visit beforehand to ask his permission if you can start the following Monday. Every Monday a new group begins, and there may be some continuing students, as well as new arrivals. Students in Pichet's class are at all levels, from beginner to highly advanced practitioners.

Ask permission first: I suggest you visit Pichet's classroom instead of calling by telephone. By visiting, you can find your way there and meet him in person and visit the class for prayers. You can visit either in the morning, about 8:30 a.m. (preferred), or in the afternoon, about 3:00



p.m. Do not interrupt the class by arriving in the middle of the day. When you ask permission to study, mention that you were recommended by someone you know or by Thai Healing Alliance, and gently ask if you can begin study with him on the following Monday. The best days to visit for this purpose would be Thursday or Friday, so you can begin the following Monday. If you can not visit in person and you must call to ask permission, the best times to call are before or after class. This means about 8:30 a.m. or about 4:15 p.m.

To get there: Go to Chiang Mai gate (the southern central gate). Across the street from the market (on the other side of the street) you'll see a yellow *songthaew* (yellow pick up) on the corner. That pick up is probably going to Hang Dong.(ask the driver first). Take the yellow bus for about 10-15 minutes, it will first pass the Old Medicine Hospital, then continue past the airport, and then it will begin going down a wide boulevard with a divider island down the middle. You will pass a large SONY billboard on the right. This will continue for about 8-10 minutes more. At this point you should look for a big blue/white "American Standard" sign on your right (on the opposite side of the boulevard). When you see the American Standard sign, you are about ½ mile away from the stop. Ring the buzzer on the bus, or tell the driver you want to get off at "Baan Chang Kam", which is about 1 block before a *wat* (temple), which you can see on the other side of the street. Get off, and on your left, just past a little woodworking place, you'll see a dirt road that winds past a field on your left. In the distance on the left you'll see a few banana trees. Pichet's house is right there, at the end of the block, before it curves to the right.. If you get lost, just ask for "Ajahn Pichet" or "Baan Chang Kam."

Payment and Offerings: On the first (or maximum, second) day of class, you must bring a basket of offerings for the altar, and in the basket, you must place your payment (appx. \$125 -\$150 USD per week (4,000 baht) in an envelope and write your name on it. To know how to prepare the basket offerings, ask one of the students and they will tell you; fruit, candles, flowers, incense are all important components. Make sure you face the flower tips pointing directly ahead, toward the altar and the Buddha. You can buy all ingredients for your offering at the Chiang Mai gate market, near where you catch the yellow bus to Hang Dong.

continued next page.....

General map to Ajahn Pichest's house from the southern (Chiang Mai) gate.

