

Contents

Acknowledgements.....	ix
Notes on transliteration and translation	xi
Glossary	xiii
Abbreviations.....	xv
Part I The Thai Context.....	1
Chapter 1 Considering Interreligious Encounter: An Introduction.....	3
Disturbing the peace	3
Contour	5
Approach	8
The why question	12
Chapter 2 Buddhist-Christian Encounter in the Past	15
Interpreting Thai history	15
Interpreting past encounters	16
Modern developments	24
Lessons learned	29
Chapter 3 Religion and Society	37
Organised religion	38
Religion and conflict in the south.....	40
Buddhism today.....	41
Christianity today	53
Part II A Thai Story	61
Chapter 4 Buddhist-Christian Encounter: Contemporary Case Studies	63
Cases of encounter.....	63

The Buddhism Protection Centre of Thailand.....	64
Foundation and concerns	64
The dangers to Buddhism	71
The Christian threat	76
The untrustworthy Christian	79
Hope of Bangkok Church.....	82
Birth, growth and division	82
Evangelism, a way of life	88
The unsaved Buddhist.....	90
Spirit in Education Movement	94
Foundation and work	94
The Sulak element	97
Encounter and grassroots concerns.....	100
The partnership model	102
The Institute of Religion, Culture and Peace	107
Background – the Protestant liberal legacy and an uncertain future	107
Resisting dialogue: the church response	112
The Buddhist as dialogue partner	118
A Village Community.....	119
Place and people	119
Village encounter	129
The religious other as kinsfolk.....	133
 Chapter 5 A Critical Dialogue.....	 141
Buddhists and nationalism.....	141
<i>Khwammankhong</i> Buddhism: the issue	141
Nation, Religion and Monarchy: the ideology.....	142
Points of debate.....	149
The search for a Thai Christian identity.....	157
The task of inculturation: the issue	157
A foreign body? Perceptions and responses	160
Points of debate.....	166
Understanding the religious other	176
Defining difference: the issue	176
<i>Sombun</i> religion – conceptions and critique	179
Points of debate.....	181

Chapter 6 Conclusion: A Thai Offering 191
 Past meets present 191
 A Thai offering 195

Bibliography 199