



NEWSLETTER
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BREAKING THE POVERTY CYCLE IN CHILDREN'S LIVES

"I'm pregnant and I've just been told that I am HIV+ - my boyfriend never told me he had AIDS - I have no family to support me - please can you help me - will you take my baby when it is born?"

This was the heartbreaking cry of a young nurse in Bangkok.... her baby, named Esther is now three months old and is being loved and cared for in the new children's village in Phrae. The young nurse in Bangkok is one of many young girls who find themselves pregnant with no family to support them and no hope of caring for a baby on their own.

900 students now attend our Meata Chanupatham Christian School.

School students from government and private schools in the Province of Phetchabun entered Science and English competitions last year. A large number of our students won the top awards. It's wonderful to see these students who come from poor families and AIDS orphans excelling in their school work. At the end of last year the school won the soccer championship in the Lomsak / Phetchabun regent.



Malcolm Lawrie from South Australia brought his 4th annual building team for 6 weeks in January / February 2008. They commenced a much needed eight class room building to accommodate the intake of new students in May 2008. Second year High School will also be added in May. The building team brought \$26,000 towards the building of the new class rooms.

Malcolm and his team of builders also commenced building a 2-storey apartment block for two volunteer couples who will arrive later in the year. The two couples are providing the finance to build this apartment block.



The miracle of the little blue jump suit...

For more than a year, in their daily prayer time, the Phrae Team have taken turns to hold a little blue baby's jump suit and pray, asking God for babies for the new Phrae Village. God has answered their prayers - Currently they have three lovely baby girls - Esther, Whun-Sen and Ploy plus Fook, Whun-Sen's two year old brother.... and more babies are expected! The Phrae team are overjoyed with God's answer to their prayers and they continue to pray over the little blue jump suit.





Becoming more self-sufficient... By the end of this year we will be preparing approximately 9000 meals per week. There will be an abundance of fruit from our fruit trees and fish from our fish farm to feed the children in the care of House of Mercy Foundation plus all the children at the school.

Continued growth and expansion - Mercy International / House of Mercy Foundation Thailand continues to thrive under the blessing of God. By the end of 2008 we should have approximately

- 18 self-funded volunteers
- 150 staff and teachers (all paid above award rates)
- 160 live in children – most AIDS affected and/or AIDS orphans
- 1000 poor children (from 3yrs – 14yrs) being educated in our school.

Those of us who are involved in Thailand stand in amazement as we see lives changed and enhanced, the poverty cycle being broken in so many lives, the unloved finding love and acceptance and the stream of incredible miracles of provisions. We are truly thankful to God and the many loyal supporters who support us and the work.



English Language School – Sisaket.

The school recently moved into lovely new purpose-built premises in the heart of Sisaket. This excellent facility was provided by a local Thai-Chinese Christian businessman who wants the rental savings to bless poor children in our care. The school which has 225 students is a business and the profits help support the Mercy International / House of Mercy foundation children projects in Thailand.

Teachers wanted for the English Language School.
Teachers working at this school receive a live in allowance plus free accommodation and teachers who stay longer than a year receive help with airfares.

Phetchabun Agricultural Program.

Through the “Cow for a Child” project we will soon have a herd of approximately 70 cattle. We have had to plant and irrigate a lot of extra pasture and we are planning to buy extra land this year for pasture and for the new experimental tree crops we are seeking to introduce to the area. A number of qualified volunteers will be assisting in developing a TAFE-type agricultural course (and other courses) to become part of the High School curriculum.



CURRENT CHALLENGES

The School – we need to complete the new classroom block by the end of April

- Aluminum Windows and doors are \$2000 per classroom
- Ceilings are \$300 per class room
- Tiled floors are \$500 per class room.
- Lights, Fans & Elect fit out \$600 per classroom
- Painting will be \$150 per room
- Staff Toilets etc \$250 per complete unit (4)
- Block wall, materials, erected & rendered at \$100 per 10 sq m
- White Boards - \$50 each
- Desks & seats - \$40 each set

Friends – Whatever is happening in your world today just remember that God is for you and nothing is impossible to them whose faith and trust is in God!

Blessings, Rob, Jean, Sharon and John

