

# Mercy Ministries Foundation

(Christian Happy Homes)

April, 2005

## **The Tsunami just got closer!**

About 2 am on February 23, I found myself trying to say my last words to my Mom via phone. She had formed a blood clot in her head 2 days before that and these were her last moments. Even though I knew she loved God so much, the shock, the lump in my throat and the tears seem to make me speechless. That coming evening I got the next flight out, but didn't get there in time, she walked thru the doors of eternity before I got there. As I was on the flight I was feeling overwhelmed with the sense of "so much death". I didn't think I was going to be able to handle this. For the weeks before that I literally saw hundreds of dead bodies from the Tsunami, the literal smell of death was still fresh. Not to mention the dozen of stories from families who had lost loved ones had already broken my heart! I thought too much death for my little heart to handle, YET...God was so faithful to meet me there on the plane. I knew He was with me and was carrying me. The Lord quietly comforted my heart and gently reminded me that mom was now before His throne worshipping Him, like she loved to do. Somehow that lifted my spirit and I was able to be the encouragement and be the blessing I wanted to be for my Dad and my brothers and sisters. We cried, we had meetings, we talked about the future for Dad. We eventually started laughing about all the little crazy, cute things Mom used to do. We had the funeral service and I came back to Thailand the following day. So in some strange way I felt even closer to my Thai brethren who went thru the Tsunami, somehow I could now relate to them with losing someone we love and have been able to comfort them with God's love as well! Please do continue to pray for my heart to be strengthened during this time.

## **My Tsunami Assessment and the Children's Crisis Home in Phangnga Province.**

I would like to continue my personal assessment on the tsunami situation in the province of Phangnga. Four months have now passed since the tsunami and things are changing by the week. There are still more than a dozen camp sites. All the devastated areas have been cleared, the infrastructure, roads and electricity are up and running. Many government agencies and non-government organizations have provided newly built simple homes, health issues have been addressed, and the children are back in school. Bless their hearts. Yet even though hundreds of houses have been built, thousands were affected. Although the physical health needs have been provided, the emotional needs are overwhelming! Schools have been opened yet the kids are fearful of another Tsunami. There is panic and fear at every level, as we saw on March 28th when there was that powerful earthquake that made everyone run for higher ground! One of my biggest concerns is that the people in the camps are traumatized and bored, with no work or future insight. I think that has been the breeding ground for the increase of domestic violence, increased consumption of alcohol and drugs. I just pray that the Christians continue to be there to comfort the people with the love of God and offer them hope in Jesus.

At the same time, consider the things that have happened spiritually....look at these amazing statistics:

- Phangnga province before the Tsunami was the least of provinces open to hearing the gospel, had very few Christians and only 3 very small churches. NOW, there are at least 4 different churches being planted in just Baan Nam Kem Village, which was the most devastated area from the Tsunami. I have also seen another 4 churches along that coastal road to Kao Lak. There are at least 2 to 3 times amount of Christians now than before the Tsunami. Interesting eh?

- People are coming to know Jesus everyday in the camps. Here is another interesting thing to consider: these people will eventually move back to their village or nearby villages- with Jesus moving with them...possibly other churches out of that?!

- It is a special time in the history of southern Thailand and the Spirit of the God is moving and bringing needy people to Him and into His Kingdom! Amazing!

Concerning the Children in the Camps from the Tsunami:

Very Interesting to say the least. In some ways when I first got down here I pictured dozens of kids in crisis and in need of an emergency home and in need of help. It hasn't quite been like that at all. The government quickly and tightly held on to the children, via their families in the camps. Rightly so, the children needed to be protected. Then everybody under the sun wanted to give the orphans money to stay with their relatives, offer them scholarship funds and have made lots of promises to them. Another interesting factor I found out was that southern culture is real different than the north. The southern people seem to really hold on to their relatives and children. Once again, I think 6 months will be a turning point for the camps and children. So in some ways the children did not leave the camps so we found ways to go to the children in the camps. We were able to deliver playground equipment to about 14 different camp sites for the children. We were also instrumental in helping get a few children centers started; along with a group called We Love Thailand. Actually we have a small team of our Thai teenage girls serving at one of the children's camp! It has been awesome to seek the welfare of the children in these camps.

Having said all that, we still feel led by the Lord to open the Children's Home here in Phangnga. I know the children's status will change in time and we'll be ready. All the finances to setup and run the home have been provided above and beyond! We are officially registered with the welfare dept. with the Thai government and have just received our first child, a small little boy name Gomin. We will continue to work close to the government offices as the need arises and plus we have contacts in the camps that know we are here to help. I have brought Ieng down from the Babies' home in northern Thailand to work along side Dorien in opening up this new home. Asa from the Chiangrai Home is down here also as part of the team for this home. WE have an awesome team setup here in Phangnga.

MMF has also rented a Team House on the coast near the area that was hit the most, so we can host and mobilize teams to work and help the people. I have Brandon Macaffery overseeing this project, as well as assessing needs and projects that need our help. Which brings me to another point: We are now ready to place construction teams for projects like building small local houses to building boats. If you know of anybody that wants to come as a team, please contact us. Please note that teams, rather than individuals are needed most. May God lead us all as we look to share the love of God thru practical means. We would ask for your continual prayers for our team down south.

### **Chiangrai Thailand**

- We just finished a Leadership seminar for all the heads of each CHH Homes under Mercy Ministries Foundation. Pastor Bob Griener and other CC pastors were able to teach and share with all of us for 3 days. We were all challenged, comforted and encourage in the things of God and in serving Him. I think we should make this an annual thing eh?

- This summer MMF was able to send two small teams out during our school holidays. Sadudee, Busa and Nitiya are at the Tsunami Children's centers down in Phangnga. While Witaya, Asae and Niwat have been in Cambodia helping with the building project we are doing there.

- I praise God for Kasem, as he continues to grow in leadership in the ministry here in Thailand. He has basically taken over my job! Awesome eh?

- Mena, Alae, Somchat, Meow---all from the Chiangrai House have graduated and are now working in the big wide world. . Also Kintana, Mee-o, Nopadon, have graduated with degrees are working young adults!

- Amee just graduated from bible college with a degree in Theology! Praying where God would want to send her!

- The Lord has wonderfully provided to be able to build 2 cottages/homes at the Chiangrai house. We are changing our approach in living with the kids on a much more smaller and intimate home setting, hence the cottage style settings.

### **Cambodia Update:**

Now that the Phangnga Home is established and is up and running, I am officially back in Cambodia. I'm now ready by the grace of God to start the building project of the orphanage here in Poipet, Cambodia. For the last few weeks I have been trying to work with the Cambodian government in getting a building permit, electricity and a water system up and running. I beg for your prayers on this one...it will take a miracle to get things up and rolling here! You can pray that we will have favor with the different departments in the government and/or patience for me as I go through all the red tape. Never the less I am excited to see these homes get started and build. Now, I'm sure you know how demanding a building project can be...so, once again, please pray for us. I'll

write in more detail as we make progress in the building of our cottages/homes here in Poipet. Another good note is Tam will be joining me here in Cambodia as well.

**On A Personal note:**

So much has happened in the last 4 months, I'll never be the same. I think that is good in a sense that I must grow and reach a new level of dependency on God and His extravagant love like I've never experienced before! I know in my heart of hearts I will always love God because He first loved me and I love much because I have been forgiven much! I thank God for His grace and love He has for me and I pray I can faithfully share it with others! I would like to ask you to please continue to pray for me. I know I need it, I feel like I'm in a spiritual battle, in the trenches of the frontline and occasionally get swiped at. Prayer, being in His word and drawing close to Him is the simple answer; please pray that I'm faithful to do just that each day!

I thank God for His wonderful provision for the homes here in Northern Thailand, also for the abundant giving from people all over the world for the Phangnga Home in south. Plus for the finances to build the home in Poipet! Does God care for the orphans or what? Thank you so much for praying , giving, and supporting us here at Mercy Ministries Foundation, simply put, for the kids, staff and I. After this email I will try and send a few more with some pictures on it, hopefully it will get through!

*With a gracious and full heart,  
Rose*

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