

Mercy Ministries Foundation

(Christian Happy Homes)

January, 2005

Tsunami Report

You have all seen the pictures on TV but to personally see it and be here is something else. I'm almost speechless and searching for words to explain or talk about what I've seen and smelled. I know Indonesia has been hit the hardest but I also know God has me here in Thailand and I feel for all the people who have lost loved ones and are hurting. Thousands of people have died as a result of the Tsunami, both Thais and Westerners. For the last week we have been in Phang nga / Phuket, the coastline that was hit the hardest in southern Thailand. Towns, villages are totally gone! The team here has done everything from lifting dead bodies into freezers (containers), to visiting hurting people and praying for them. We have driven teams around and have worked with the local welfare departments. After visiting the emergency sites I began to ask about the children. Who is helping the kids and orphans whose parents have died?

There are too many heartbreaking stories to tell them all but one short one is that a small primary school that used to have 500 students now has only 91 kids left! A lot of children have died. What the Lord has put on my heart is to start a temporary Children's Crisis Home during this tragedy. We (MMF, Tam and I) want to commit 3 to 6 months at first, as we look to take care of the orphans or displaced kids that parents or relatives are missing. I just don't want to see the lonely kids stuck at the hospital or government offices while they wait to reunite with their families, if they are still alive. The children are so traumatized and vulnerable right now and are at risk. Simply put, I'd love to see these kids get back to some sort of normality with a safe bed, rice on their plate and a loving atmosphere with the love of God. Of course there is potential for a long term vision for here as well. I think 3 to 6 months will give us a realistic view of how many real orphans there are after the immediate needs are taken care of.

So please pray for us! We believe the doors are so opened for us. We need to rent a house, buy some beds, rice and the basics to make home. I can send you more details if you want. Pray for us, pray for the children and please pray for Thailand. I am setting up a "Tsunami Fund" for the different people who have asked. The info is at the end.

Sorry for sending this info so slow. We just got caught up with the whirlwind that has happened here. A cheery note here: Tomorrow we go to this one site where there are over 3,000 people and lots of kids. We are hoping that the toy trucks, dolls and soccer balls that we pass out will brighten up their days! We just want to be there to hear their stories and pray for them!

With a gracious and full heart,

Rose

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