

Mercy Ministries Foundation

(Christian Happy Homes)

March 19, 2006

Building in Poipet, building in Phangnga, now its time for some serious building!

The new challenge for these places now is : *to build a strong team of staff that love Jesus and will then turn around and love the orphans that God has placed in our care!* That's really what it is all about eh?. God gently reminds me that "now that He has taken care of us physically, with a house and food, it's now time to take care of the kids spiritually and emotionally." More than ever I feel compelled to disciple a team and train leadership for the different homes. I have been doing that for the last couple of years in Thailand, but now it is ever so clear for Cambodia as well. Here are some updates concerning the homes.

Poipet, Cambodia:

The actual building of the home is about 98% done. (See Photos) Right now we are drilling for water and are setting up a water system for the facility. We are also trying to get some electricity to the home. We do have a generator for now but please pray with us for electrical wiring to get out to our property. We are hoping to move in by the end of April. Some other changes here, Gene Rivera and his family feel its time for them to go back to the USA....so that leaves me with a local team to move into the new home! I'd appreciate your prayer for this.

The Preschool is going well. Heng and the other teachers continue to impress me with their devotion to the children there in the Kbal Spean slum. As a matter of fact we have rented the land next to the preschool for a youth sport area for the young people there in the slum. Soksan, one of our staff here, has a football team of 30 young teenagers and they practice each evening. But on Wednesday evenings he has a short bible study with these guys, exciting eh?! So please pray with us as we look to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with our fellow friends and locals here in Poipet in any way possible. Jesus loves the people of Poipet!

An up coming event here is that we are going to have a Leadership Conference at the end of April for MMF and CHO staff. Timely as we are challenged to BUILD up leadership for Cambodia. Please pray for that.

Phangnga, Southern Thailand:

The team down south continues to be an encouragement and blessing to me personally! Ieng, Mark and Dorien and other volunteers continue to take care of the kids affected by the Tsunami and others as well. It seems to be turning into a baby's home, with the newest additions being 2 and 4 weeks old! (See Photos) The actual construction of the home is about 60% done and is expected to be done by the beginning of June. It has the cottage style houses like the other homes and there is a good wholesome feeling about it all! I continue to thank God for all His provision in making this possible. I am also

thankful to the brethren who so generously gave to this home. All for His Glory and Kingdom!

Chiangrai, Chiangsaen, Thoeng Homes, Northern Thailand:

School is now closed and our kids seem to be scattered everywhere. Some work for the summer, some go visit their relatives in their villages and some have gone on team outreaches down south. For some, it is time to leave the nest, they have graduated and will go out into the big world. Letting go of these ones are always the most emotional ones for me. Like any parent, I wonder and worry how they will do, the work they'll get, spiritually will they stand? I eventually have to come to rest with the scripture that says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, And even when he is old he will not depart from it". **Pro 22:6** There are others who have made big decisions concerning their lives. For example, Wichai who graduates from Bible College goes into ministry and will get married by the end of the year. Nu and Nit graduate from bible school as well and will come on full time at CHH Chiangrai with Kasem. Asa and Yemui finish their School of Biblical Studies with Ywam and feel led to serve the Lord in a local church down south. Pon and Karuna are serving the Lord in Cambodia for now. Mayawee and Cheep, Mattai and Jamnieng continue to do a good job running the Chiangsaen and Thoeng Home. As many of you may already know, Tam will be heading back to the North of Thailand to become the leader of our Discipleship House (Baan Selah) and could really use your prayers. Actually she's got a great bunch of kids to work with, but of course being teenagers, will be a challenge!

On a personal note: Lord willing I will get on a plane to visit my dad, who is 82 and has had a bout or two with cancer. I plan to stay for just a couple of weeks while it is school break here. I've got some great people watching the fort while I'm gone. Actually I'll be traveling back with Kasem and Preda who are in the States by April 20th. Please pray for me that I am able to get some much needed rest and a good visit with dad.

My heart always feels thankful to all the volunteers, all the teams, all the prayers, all the finances and for all the people that make up Mercy Ministries Foundation. Which in reality is a big family, the kids and adults, that want to live for God and share His love to those around us. Thank you for being part of us, we appreciate you!

I'm going to close with a poem from Nathan Knox, who, I think, sums up Poipet and our feelings toward it very well. Nathan wrote this while his parents served here with MMF in Poipet.

POIPET

The dirty town where I live, where cars and motos weave,
I never really liked that much,
Until we had to leave.

The people always smiling and waving from where they sit,
Through this whole experience,
This is one thing I won't forget.

The trash is on the ground and mud is everywhere.
At first I hated it,
But now I don't really care.

They may not know our Lord, that, we all can see,
But even in this situation,
They're kinder and happier than me.

We can't speak to each other, and the language barrier is great,
But we can laugh and play with each other,
And in that we communicate.

As we leave to Thailand, Poipet will be in my mind,
As the dirty, dusty, loving town,
That my family left behind.

Ps. Pictures follow this email .

*With a gracious and full heart,
Rose*

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