

AIDS Care

www.aids-care.dk

Hope & Action



Newsletter, July 2009

A Ministry to AIDS Victims in Northern Thailand

HIV/AIDS

Statistics:

Number of HIV-infected

33.2 mill.

Number of people under age of 25 who is infected each minute:

4

Number of seconds between each new HIV-infection:

7.5 sekunder

Number of children infected with HIV each day:

1.150

Number of people who die each day of AIDS:

7.950

Help us changing the statistics.

Purpose:

- Support of AIDS children's schooling
- Help with acute need for clothing, food etc.
- Support of AIDS medicine
- Visitation in homes, hospitals etc.
- Advice and encouragement

The ministry is based on individual donations

Send your donation to your local OMF Office. Mark the donation #L84133, Mekong Office or donate through the AIDS Care web-site www.aids-care.dk

In Denmark AIDS Care is a mission project from Bethania Church, Aalborg - a member of the Danish Evangelical Covenant Church.

In Thailand AIDS Care is a OMF Mekong related project.

AIDS Care cooperates with other organizations who has children and parents with AIDS as

To Be a Volunteer in AIDS Care

By Anna Stølen and Lea Brunsnes

We have now been in Thailand for about six weeks and we're enjoying it in every possible way.

At first though, it was somewhat of a shake-up to come to a country where the culture is so different from the Danish, with its flag, meat balls, potatoes and gravy.

The menu here is rather more exotic, and you can get anything from rice, noodles and chicken to beetles, frogs and moths.

But it's been a pleasure to try it out, and a lot of the food tastes delicious. You just have to make sure that it doesn't get too spicy.

The Thai people are incredibly accommodating, friendly and open. No matter where you look, you see a Thai smiling at you.

It's really a joy and you can't but feel welcome here.

As in any other culture there are some standards and unwritten rules it's wise to follow.

Here, for instance, it's OK to pick your nose in front of other people. But on the other hand it's extremely impolite to remove food that has stuck between your teeth. It has to be done secretly and NOT with your hand, but with a tooth pick.

These are things we need to get used to and try to adapt to.

Our volunteer work consist among other things of teaching the project leaders, Pii On and Pii Ang, English and follow them on house visits to families connected to the AIDS Care project.

It's very interesting, but also hard to see the way many of these families live. Several of the families live in extreme poverty.

Apart from that, we are in Doi Law every Saturday, teaching the children English, singing English Christian songs with them and playing different games.



Lea og Anna - volunteers Spring 2009

It's always a great pleasure to be in Doi Law, for the children are incredible sweet and have an enormous desire for learning.

Volunteers are greatly needed since normally it's the oldest girls in the project who teach the younger children English, even though their own English is relatively limited.

As volunteers we can try to give them some tools to build sentences and not just learn words.

Furthermore, we can help them with the pronunciation as English contains many sounds that are foreign to them.

However we feel very humble towards the task as our knowledge of Thai is still very limited.

In order to contribute with something, we have to find creative methods of teaching using drawings, a lot of gesticulations, acting etc.

That leads to a lot of giggling smiling and roaring of laughter. You dearly feel that the children enjoy being there on Saturdays, and to us the most important thing is that they're having a great time – the fact that they are learning English is just an extra bonus.

Please turn over



Anna found a good friend

One can't help all, but all can help one.

3 of the new children
- Spring 2009



Volunteerscontinued from page 1

Apart from our English classes, a pastor is connected to the project. He sings with the children and teaches the teenagers Christianity. He's very good at getting their attention and telling Bible stories in an engaging manner. Pii On teaches Bible stories to the younger children.

We experience God's faithfulness

For us this journey has not only been a meeting with the culture of Thailand but also a meeting with the culture of God.

Arriving in a foreign country where everything is so totally different – the climate, the people, the language, the food and the culture – make us suddenly feel like small helpless children who have to start all over learning everything from scratch.

We've realized how dependent we are on the people around us to show us how to get along in this new country. We have the same experience when it comes to God.

God uses this situation to teach us a lot of things from scratch. He teaches us how dependent we are on Him, and He teaches us to trust Him.

In Denmark we live life in the fast track. We're not dependent on God in the life we live, we can easily manage on our own. We so want to have everything under control, and if we don't get an answer to our prayer, we always have a plan B ready. In that way God doesn't get the part in our lives he should have.

But now when we're taken out our own comfort zone and planted in Thailand, which is



Lea teaching English

definitely not our home ground, we're suddenly forced to be more dependent on God.

Even if it can be hard at times, we both agree that it's been a very important lesson for us to learn, a lesson we wouldn't have been without.

It's very rewarding in our relationship with God, and our faith is constantly challenged because we have to trust that God has everything under control. And so He has!

We've really experienced that God is a faithful, loving and educating God when we surrender everything to Him. ■

Emergency aid

We see an increasing need for emergency aid for adult AIDS victims. Please help us to help them.

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AIDS Care on the Summer Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church

Once again - as in previous years - AIDS care has an exhibition on the Summer Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church held in week 31.

This provides us with an opportunity to present our work and talk with people who show their interest.

In the afternoon of Sunday 26 July there is a seminar presenting the various missionary projects of the different congregations. AIDS Care will take part in this.



Week 31
July 25. - 31. 2009

If you are in the neighborhood of Kolding in week 31 you are welcome to "drop by" and say hallo. ■

Further education



Thanks to the profits from the sale of cards, angels, and bows, AIDS Care is now able to help these three girls in their further education.

Bible Studies

In Doi Law 48 children are following the correspondence Bible Course



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Visitation in Chiang Mai



The project leader of AIDS Care in Chiang Mai, On, is visiting the grandparents of one of AIDS Care's children. (The kitchen can be seen in the background.)

The poverty is severe – and the help from AIDS Care is highly appreciated.

In January 2009 AIDS Care Chiang Mai started and is now supporting ten children victimized by AIDS, plus their families.

We appreciate your prayers and support for this expansion of our work. ■

New Co-operation with a Local Church

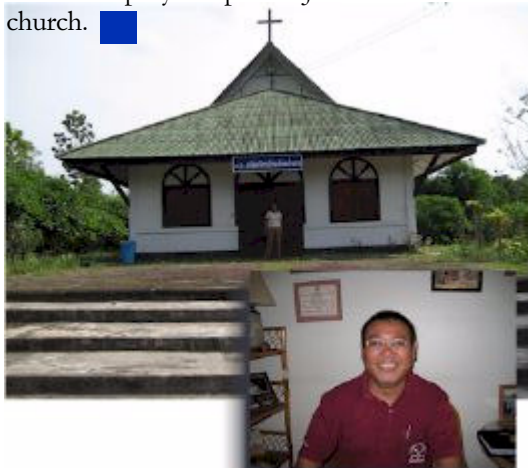
AIDS Care has started a co-operation with pastor Johan and his Church. The church is in an area adjacent to Doi Law.

AIDS Care are currently supporting five children victimized by AIDS in the church's area. Instead of travelling far to get to the Saturday gatherings in Doi Law, the children are attending the service in pastor Johan's church.

Over the years, pastor Johan has been involved in various AIDS work, but it has not been until now that the local church actively participates in the AIDS work.

One of the leaders from the church has accepted to be the local AIDS Care volunteer in this area.

Please pray for pastor Johan and the local church. ■



Visit to Burma

In the beginning of April, Toi, the project leader of AIDS Care Mae Hong Son, was on another journey to the Shan State in Burma.

She visited some churches and taught about AIDS and how we as Christians have a responsibility to show care and love to those inflicted with AIDS.

We have started a co-operation with a Christian orphanage that has agreed to take two children whose parents died from AIDS during the autumn.

We have continuous contact with this orphanage and try to help in various ways.

Your prayers and support for the start of AIDS Care's work in Burma will be appreciated. ■

AIDS Care is a mission project from the Bethania Church, Aalborg, Denmark
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AIDS Care
brings the number
of children up to 85
in 2009

Visiting Mae Hong Son

In June Inger Lise spent two weeks in Thailand visiting AIDS Care in Doi Law, Chiang Mai and Mae Hong Son. It was a very rewarding trip.

We are happy to see that the work is growing and that we are getting the opportunity to help even more children victimized by AIDS.

Inger Lise spent three days in Mae Hong Son and joined AIDS Care's project leader on her house visits.

Even though it is almost impossible to share the impressions, we will still try to give you some glimpses from the work and the culture.

Among the Shan people, one of our target groups, the poverty is huge.

It pleases us to see that we, thanks to your support, are able to reach out to people in great need.

A boy receives help

Oat's mother died last year of AIDS. She became a Christian before she died and she was a shining testimony during the last months of her life.

Oat came to a Christian orphanage where he is thriving

The monthly support from AIDS Care is put into a bank account. The money will be used for Oat's education.

A small boy in Scotland heard about Oat. Immediately he decided to cancel his birthday party, presents, etc.

Instead he asked his family and friends to give the money as a present for Oat.

The result was several thousand Danish kroner put into Oat's bank account for his education.



Prayers

- Praise God for the many new opportunities
- Praise God for the workers and volunteers and all the other helpers
- Pray for the AIDS Care new initiative in Chiang Mai and Burma
- Pray for all the new children being supported by AIDS Care
- Pray for AIDS Care workers, volunteers, ministry leaders and the economy

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**One cannot help all
- but all can help
one!**

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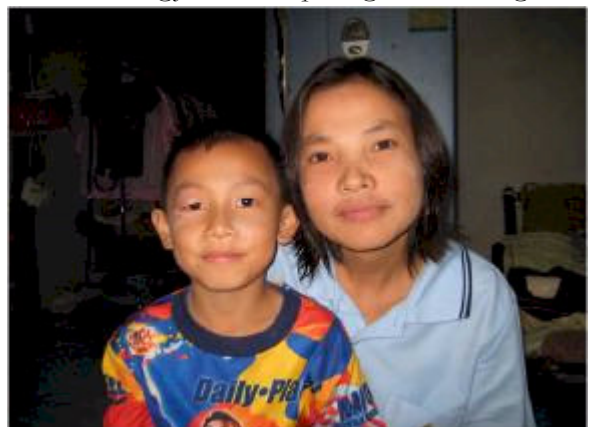


Toi in Mae Hong Son is visiting a poor man with AIDS and his son. AIDS Care is supporting the boy's

schooling. As you can see from the picture, their home is very poor. The help from AIDS Care is essential.



Oat is doing fine in the orphanage in Mae Hong Son



Deng Moe became a Christian when AIDS Care showed her love and care while she was in the hospital. AIDS Care is now supporting her and her son.

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