



VOLUME 4 / 2008

Missionaries:

Virgilio & Esther de los Santos
James & Nerissa de los Santos
Hannah de los Santos

UPDATE "SPECIAL STUDY"

Altogether, there are 25 students enrolled in this special study in Maekachan, ranging from fourth grade to junior high. Out of this number we run an average attendance of 15 students every Saturday and Sunday. The program consists of homework assistance in English and Math, crafts, singing, and games. The students come at 9 a.m. and go home at 3 p.m. Lunches are provided to enable them to stay for the afternoon's activities. This program has been proven effective, because we can teach them the word of God through songs and Bible stories. On Sunday, they join the first part of the service which is singing and Bible reading. A kid is assigned to do responsive reading then they split from the adults for their own program. This involvement stems from their willing hearts. We believe that the Lord will do his work. Right after we commenced this "program", there were setbacks in no time at all. The parents, after sending their kids for a week started to have doubts and fear. The second week found the attendance irregular. Our coworkers shared during our prayer times that the parents feared that we'd make their kids Christians. We spent about a month praying concerning this matter. Thanks be to God! the parents now realize that we don't force religion to their kids, but we just want to help and teach them to be responsible citizens, to respect their parents, provide their children a place where they can spend precious time during weekends instead of roaming around bringing harm to themselves. And at the special study program, there are dedicated servants of God who care for their children. We are thankful to the Lord for leading us into this direction.

ALTERNATIVE PLAN

After the Japanese government had informed us that we would not get the grant to build the facilities for the Children's Home, we made an alternative proposal that will cost \$38,000 for a multipurpose building, Girl's permanent dorm, moving of boy's temporary dorm, boy's bathrooms, electricity & water installations. Praise the Lord, a church and a family in Jacksonville, Florida have underwritten the expenses. As soon as the rainy season is over we will start the construction. We are so excited! The next step is to raise funds to build the permanent boy's dorm. For the meantime, the boys are content in staying in a temporary building which will be moved to the new property in March. They agreed that the girls should be given priority to stay in a safe place.

JOHN MARK VISITS THAILAND

On July 27 John Mark arrived in Chiangmai from the Philippines, his first visit in five years. He was born and grew up in Thailand but went to the Philippines for college. Last year he graduated from AMA University in Manila with Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He is a S.A.L.T. (Sharing the Amazing Light in Thailand) Ministries representative in the Philippines. His visit is both family and mission related. At the time of this writing he is still in Thailand enjoying being with his family and helping with the work. He teaches our staff English and helps the children at the Children's Home with their English homework. He also comes with us to visit churches in Maekachan in Chiangrai province and Muangngam Church in Doi Saket District, Chiangmai province. In addition, he helps with the Music Ministry of Dawn of Life Christian Church by playing his violin which adds a little sophistication and classic quality to the music.



MOTHER'S DAY COMMEMORATION

August 12 is Queen Sirikit's birthday and an official national Mother's Day in Thailand. On August 9, we invited the mothers of all students enrolled in our special study program in Maekachan. There were displays of their crafts and pictures of them in action. Those who came for this special occasion have seen with their eyes that their children learned how to care for other children, etc. They've heard how their children recited the word of God which is beneficial to all people. Our coworker, Mr. Subin Chiangnoon, explained to them what each family should be. After which the mother were showered with flowers and their children approached them and paid respect while they were sitting in front of the audience. Subin said, "This is the time to show your love to your mothers, and to ask forgiveness for whatever wrongs you have done to them". There were hugging and crying during this momentous time. Once again the mothers realized that we teach their kids honorable things. Some parents said, "This is the first time that we hugged and expressed our love to each other".



Top to bottom:

- 1) John Mark teaching English
- 2) Mother's Day in Maekachan
- 3) Children performing for their mothers

MAGGIE TALLEY ARRIVES IN THAILAND

Miss Mary Margaret "Maggie" Talley arrived in Chiangmai on August 18 to join SALT Ministries. She is from a church in Stillwater, Oklahoma. She first came to Thailand with the Faith Medical Mission in March this year. During that time, she told us about her vision of coming to Thailand to help at the Children's Home. She will be our English teacher and nurse at the Children's Home and will also alternate in teaching English at Maekachan. She will also study the Thai language, a vital thing to do to be able to communicate effectively with Thai people.



BUILDING UP RELATIONSHIP THROUGH SPORTS

On August 31, the kids of Children's Home and young people of Dawn of Life Christian Church numbering 40 joined the 30 young people from the Special Study program at Maekachan Church for sports and games. Right after lunch, a convoy of four vehicles left for Maekachan. We arrived there at almost three in the afternoon with cheers from the host church and the students. During the opening ceremony, Miss Uangkham Sirinam, a member of the church told an audience of 100 people the purpose of the occasion: "We want our young people to divert their attention from illicit drugs and other harmful things through this Sports Relationship and to become responsible people in the future. The parents had a great time cheering the athletes and once again they saw that our program was for the good of their children. We have found that sports are an effective tool to reach out to the young people.



GOD'S BLESSINGS (news from Hannah)

God is blessing the youth ministry with new members and new projects. Since the beginning of the new school year a few months ago, God has led two teenage girls, May and Pim, to our church. Being the only Christian girls from Impact Tribal dorm, they have become involved with the youth and church through the invitation of one of our youth members. I pick them up every Sunday morning for church and am trying to get them more involved with the youth and church ministries. I thank God that May and Pim are very open-hearted with the church work, and I can see them becoming strong leaders in the near future.

We held our second youth worship night on August 23rd. Again, it was a fulfilling evening of worship and fellowship. Both "new" and "old" faces were present, and the youth worship team and I had the privilege to lead the youth in raising Jesus on high.

Dave Sala, an Asian-American who moved to Thailand a few years ago, is a new youth counselor for our youth. His musical talents have been a great help to the church worship team and youth ministries. Dave and I, along with the youth, are currently working on new project, which is a music competition this coming November. We have to write, compose, and arrange 2 new worship songs. It is a very big challenge, but we believe God will use the talents of his children to glorify His name.



DISCIPLING PROGRAM

Since the children from another foundation left Roong Aroon Children's Home in May, Virgilio volunteered to pick them up to go to church, although they now live far from the church. Since we have invested on their young lives on the spiritual realm, we feel it's worth the effort and money to continue teaching them. The children all come from Buddhist background; therefore it is a big challenge for all of us to impact Christ to them. It does not take only Bible teaching but most importantly, our own lives and actions must reflect what we teach. The bigger kids (youth) study the word with the adults while the little ones join the other kids for a three-hour activity in a small room behind the sanctuary.

In closing, "may the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as our does for you." 1 Thess. 3:12 May God abundantly bless you for your love for the people in Thailand.

*Serving With You,
Virgilio & Esther de los Santos*

Top to bottom:

- 1) Maggie enjoying time with the children*
- 2) Sports fellowship in Maekachan*
- 3) Pim & May (2 girls up front)*
- 4) Second youth worship night*
- 5) Dave (glasses) playing with worship team*

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please don't forget to note that our post office address has changed from P.O. Box 74 to P.O. Box 144



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