

# CHILDREN VILLAGE KANCHANABURI

NEWSLETTER May to August 2011

**Dear Friends and Prayer Partners!**

We want to thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts for your interest, your faithfulness through E-mails, prayer, and financial support.

## Malin finishes her work with us

In December 2008 both Christine and Saengtawan Wasshausen came to Thailand. After a few weeks however, Saengtawan felt that God lead her to her home village Tagatin in Northern Thailand. That was very hard to bear for Christine who at this time could not speak the Thai language at all. It was in this situation that Malin Phila joined us and was of great help for both of them to separate reconciled and at peace. Thus it became possible for Saengtawan to plant a new church at Tagatin and for Christine to plant a new church at Lum Sum.



*Malin Phila*

Shortly after, Malin felt being called by God to come to Lum Sum to support Christine. She was a great help for us by translating Christine's preaching from English to Thai, e. g. at our Sunday services, and when talking with Thai speaking people, e.g. the mayor of our village and the landlord of our house 2. She gave very important contributions to the work with children and became, therefore, the leader of our work amongst children. To live together serving Jesus was a very good experience and helped Christine, to understand Thailand and the Thais. Her help in the household was invaluable.

After getting married in November 2010, her husband required her to help at his internet shop at Kanchanaburi during the week. She continued to help us on Sunday by translating at the services. This summer Malin and her husband decided to buy a house at Bangkok in order to have a home and a basis for their two sons to attend good schools and for her to work in a better paying job. As she wanted to integrate both sons into a good Christian Church with a good work for children, she could not come any longer to help us at Lum Sum on a regular basis.

We are very thankful for Malin. She helped us in so many ways, and in hindsight we see even more clearly, how important her service was for us.

We wish her and her husband and their children that God will protect and bless them richly on their way into the future. We are glad that we continue to stay in good contact with her.

## Summer break

In Thailand's hottest season during April and May the public schools in our province have summer holidays. Therefore we decided to take a 3 week summer break in May for our Sunday services at Lum Sum. During this time we visited together other Sunday services. In Bangkok we visited the Creation Church with Pastor Dr. Rungson Sugunta and the Myanmar Christian Assembly with Pastor Tuja Lazum. We were very positively impressed by both churches. At Kanchanaburi we visited the Muangkanchanaburi Church of our friend Pastor Preecha Kirdyoo. During the summer break we also attended the 7.5 Congress in Bangkok held by some of the great Christian associations of Thailand. About 5,000 attended. We are very glad about the large growth that has taken place among Christians in Thailand during the last years.



*Dr. Tuja Lazum Dr. Rungson Sugunta and we Preecha Kirdyoo*

## Our church services

Since Malin and Michael left we either had only one adult or none coming to our church services. On one Sunday no one came. After several Sundays on which we had only 1 child, we now have the two students that we support and their 3 younger siblings all coming regularly. One time in July we had 15 children and later on another time 13 children, and then last Sunday we counted 12 children.

Since Malin is no longer with us, we hold our church services with songs and sermons in Thai language, each of us preaching every other week. Because our ability to speak Thai is quite limited, we need to keep our sermons very simple. Christine searches the internet for pictures illustrating the texts we preach about. And we both search for the Bible verses illustrating our texts and put them together. Some time ago we used to get them printed on one page and pass them out during church service. Meanwhile, Christine is able to speak better Thai than before, so she can talk well in every day life. Reiner is not as good at it so far, however studying Thai more intensely, he now writes these verses with Latin letters and with signs to show, which of the 5 Tones of the Thai language must be used. That enables him to read the Thai text aloud and investigate the meaning of the different words. This way he can emphasize certain aspects of the passages (and at the same time he comes to know the language better). We can sing several Christian songs in Thai and have begun to learn some new Thai songs and write them down in the Latin alphabet so that we can read and sing them. When we preach the dictionary has always to be at hand, and we must always ask questions during the sermon to make sure that our audience understands everything that was said.

We are very delighted by some of the young people who now want to learn more about the

Bible, and they already did one hour of Bible teaching after service.

### Presents in abundance



On July 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Stefanie Hock-Schneider, a friend living in Bangkok, visited us. She brought many well preserved second-hand clothes and toys as well as food and hygiene products which she and her friends had bought or collected. On Saturday, we could give away many things to some poor families of the village. To the 15 children that came in for church service on next Sunday we could also give clothes and drawing material.



*2nd hand clothes*



*food to distribute*

*Stefanie Hock-Schneider*



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*Distributing food and hygiene articles in our village*

## Pop



*Pop and her father*

We were glad when Pop, the youngest daughter of Khun Nian came back to church service. She is a very intelligent girl and for 2 years she has been on the top of her school class. April next year she could go to Secondary School if there were enough financial means. But at the moment, her father is earning just 200 Baht per day (equals 4.65 Euro per day). If she wants to go to school, she would need about 35 Euro per month just for her bus ticket and lunch. Additional expenses are the required school uniform, one computer class every 6 months and more. At the present, Pop lives in the house of her half-sister house who has to take care of her 3 own children, one of it a baby. We would be very glad, if some of our friends decide to support Pop through prayer, through personal letters and through money.

## CTTM

We are very thankful for the contact with CTTM (Christ to Thailand Mission). CTTM is one of the 5 big associations of Churches in Thailand. In June we participated at the good Pastoral Leaders' Training in Khon Khaen and had the occasion to be for some hours at an excellent training session for pastors in CTTM.

## Personal matters

In mid-June, once more we had to travel to Laos in order to get new visa for Thailand. Now

we have our visa valid until September 14.

The health of both of us came under severe attacks by infections, often caused by insect bites. Reiner had to go to the hospital twice. Christine has been very weak since April, often worn out. Once her infections became so severe, that she had no choice but to go to the hospital. She has not been able to shoulder a full work load of a normal day. It's very grueling for us not being able to manage all things that have to be done. This is why this newsletter is going out only now. But we will not give up.

We are so thankful that Khun Fon comes once every week to help us with our household. She is very hard-working, thorough, and always finding places that need to be taken care of. Meanwhile, the relationship between her and us has grown into a friendship. She often brings us vegetables. Christine is being taught by Khun Fon which plants and fruits can be used and how to prepare them. Here in our home Christine mostly prepares Asian meals.

### **Visit in Germany**

On 13th September we shall fly to Germany where we will receive new visa for Thailand and also visit our relatives and friends. We intend to stay there for 6 weeks.

### **We are very thankful**

- for the great support given to us from the leaders of our sending church and from many of its members.
- for being able to pay all monthly bills up to now
- for all the fresh vegetables given to us as presents.
- for our marriage, for enjoying so much our life and service together and for being one in all of that.
- for new friends from Thailand, Australia, USA, and the Philippines.
- for our organisation CTTM in Thailand.

### **Our present prayer requests:**

1. We are in urgent need of co-workers who help us with our practical duties in house and garden, who help us help singing with the music at the service and who can work with children and youth.
2. That we learn to speak and write Thai well.
3. Protection of our spirit, soul and body.
4. Very good planning and very good encounters in Germany.
5. Protection of our house and our animals during our time of absence. Khun Fon and her family will take care of it.

6. That during our time in Germany, the young Christians in our church will grow in their faith.

Yours truly in Christ Jesus

*Reiner und Christine Hennig*

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