

**The Hennigs**  
**Missions in Kanchanaburi Province**  
**Thailand**

**Newsletter 3 - 5 / 2017**

**Dear friends and prayer partners,**

it has been more than 2 months since our last newsletter. Most of this time we had the hot season with temperatures up to 39 °C (102 °F), and we could stand it well. Now the rainy season has begun with heavy rains, and everything has become green. All the plants, including the weeds, grow very quickly now. The rainy season will last a half year, followed by the cold season with night temperatures falling until 15 °C (59 °F)

**Ban Jaiyairak, our new house for work with children and adults of our village**

During the last weeks the most important event was the inauguration of our new house at May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Its Thai name consists of Ban (house), jai (heart), yai (big), and rak (love), referring to the great, loving hart of God, our Father.

For Christine that is something special: It is the house, where she spent 3 weeks in spring 2008 following an invitation of the mayor of the village and started her life as missionary in Decembe 2008, serving the inhabitants of the village, especially the children. In 2010 she moved to the house we have lived in, but we could use that little house for some time more.

In February this year we agreed with Khun Khat, the widow of the deceased former mayor to rent this house again. It is a single-story building with 2 rooms at a bit less than 9 m<sup>2</sup> (90 ft<sup>2</sup>) each, a big room with nearly 18 m<sup>2</sup> (180 ft<sup>2</sup>) and an extension with nearly 9 m<sup>2</sup> and a kitchen with nearly 9 m<sup>2</sup>. That house is surrounded by a garden with a little toilet building in a corner. This toilet building is heavily damaged, and we prepare its restoration within the next week.

We had an electrician to install safe new electric lines and sockets. All the other things in the house werde done by Khun O and Khun Fon, who worked very hard and reliably. Before it was very difficult to be in this house on hot days. Therefore we decided to take out the ceiling, so that hot air can rise until the roof. Below the roof we installed a layer of insulating foam covered with Aluminium foil thereby reducing the emission of heat radiation from the hot roof into the house. We opened the gable under the roof covering our entrance to let the hot air in the house easily escape. We covered the space between walls and roof and the opening of the gable with wire mesh to keep insects, cats and serpents out. Now to be in the house is much more agreeable than before at hot days. We had covered all the

floors and some of the kitchen walls by tiles in order to facilitate the cleaning. As the house is now connected to the public water system, that gives water every second day, we could install taps and sinks in the kitchen.

The house has become very nice, and we like to be there. At May 12<sup>th</sup> we had the official inauguration. We had 20 guests, mostly from the low and lowest of the village. Christine told about the history and the purpose of the house, Reiner gave additional remarks and preached about 1. Joh. 4, 7 – 8. Christine cut the red ribbon, and then all could inspect the house and eat self made foods.

### **A new structure of our ministry in our village**

How do we intend to use the new house? The program for children, that takes place every Saturday from 10 a. m. to 1 p. m. is in the new house. Therefore the books, toys, games and the other materials for children were brought up to the new house. Every two weeks at Saturday 5 p.m. poor people from the village come to us to receive food, detergents and hygiene items. The things to be given are stored in one of the 2 small rooms and the distribution takes place in the big room.

Our ministry has a new branch: Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. Christine is in the new house, and this house is open for a chat, for a cup of coffee or for a deeper talk. As the new house is a single story building as most of the houses here, as the garden is much smaller than the garden of our main house, and as our dogs didn't go to the new house. we think, that Ban Jaiyairak is more accessible to the general public than our main house. To be present for the village is also a very important aspect of our planned village for children in need.

Our Sunday services continue to be held each Sunday at 5 p.m..

### **Our life**

The renovation of Ban Jaiyairak was an important part of our life. The new design was mostly done by Christine, but we did it in unity. It took a lot of time to talk with our workers Khun O and Khun Fon about planning and execution, and to go with them to buy the things needed for the renovation of the new house and for the distribution to the poor. They worked very hard and determined and did a really good work. Their pick up truck was very helpful to bring the things needed from our main building to the new house. To move the materials for youth and children and for distribution to the poor gave us a lot of free space in our main building and has helped us to breathe more freely and to keep better order. Christine was able to set up a new very beautiful work place for sewing.

We realize, that it is good for us to have some space for ourselves. Our free day at Thursday when we don't receive any visits except in case of urgent needs, is now generally accepted. Now we limit our contacts with children and adults of our village

to the special times in house 1. By this our main house becomes more a protected space for us, and that helps our soul to relax.. On the other hand we are more present in the village than before by our 3 open afternoons. In case of need, however, we are ready to help at any time.

Thailand has its big school holidays during the hot season from end of March until mid of May. During school time the children in our village have to be at school from 8 a.m. until 3.5 p.m. and do their homework afterwards. During the holidays, therefore, children visited us also in the morning or in the early afternoon. On the other hand many children have to work for money in order to increase the meagre family income. At some Saturdays and Sundays during these holidays we had less visitors than usual or none. To the Saturday programs at Ban Jaiyairak come more children, some of them from the vicinity of the new house, who had never come before. To the three afternoons per week some people of the village came.

Christine suffered a lot of itching, that shortened her nights quite considerably. It was caused first by lice, imported from infested children. We could eliminate them. The second reason were tiny spiders, that caused scabies. Over these we got partial victories only. Besides the ministry for the village at Ban Jaiyairak and the things she does in the house, for example the excellent meals, she makes correspondence and counseling via internet, cares for certain works in India and Pakistan and does fundraising for projects helping poor people in these countries.

Reiner holds our Sunday Services and preaches in them in most cases. He continues to learn Thai, especially new words, as he already worked a lot on the grammar of the language. He studies again the Bible about the life of a Christian according to the New Testament and writes about it.

### **Khun Kanitha decided to become a Christian.**

Khun Kanitha, who works in our household and prepares the midday meal for the children at Saturday had been interested in the Christian faith and had read Christian writings. On May 18<sup>th</sup> we had a long talk with her. It turned out, that she wanted to become a Christian. We told her, that she has to give her whole life to Jesus, and that she can't be Christian and Buddhist at the same time. We told her, that this step might lead to be kicked out of the community of the village. It might mean to be avoided, attacked or even to be killed. We told her, too, that God will always be with her and help her, so that she can go all the steps needed, and that He will change her life. For us it is very important, that people clearly see the costs of being a Christian, before they make the decision to follow Jesus. In spite of all the costs Khun Kanitha wanted to become a Christian and to live with Jesus. In our presence she prayed and gave her life to Jesus. She became glad and experiences, that her life become better and better. Some days later she had to go to our local primary school, because the director had invited the parents of the pupils to a meeting. Khun Kanitha informed the director, that she is now a Christian.

## **India**

The contact with our friends in India continues with many talks via Internet and SKYPE. We plan, to visit our friends in India again in July. For our Indian friends, who want to improve the learning amongst the Dalit people, Reiner wrote some pages entitled "An easy way to physics" to help to understand physics. We put them into our website. They can be found there under the item "archive".

It turns out, that debts are a gigantic problem for the Dalit in India (and for many Thais in Thailand, too). For poor people it is nearly impossible to save money as a reserve for emergencies. Even if they can manage the regular daily expenses, there are special situations, as a wedding or an expensive medical treatment, that require so big expenses, that people are forced to take out a loan. At the village we visited, all families we talked to had debts of 20 000 – 30 000 Rupies (about 430 Euro), some even 50 000 Rupies, whereas the day wage is 200 Rupies (about 2.85 Euro). The interest rate is 5 % per month. As collateral they are obliged to pledge their family jewelry or the title of their home. If the debtors can't pay, these collaterals are taken without hesitation. That may mean, that a family is driven out of their home. With this interest rate, the monthly interest may be as high as 1500 Rupies or 7.5 day wages. Everything they need for life they must work for during the other 3 weeks of the month. And then they didn't reduce the debt by a minimal amount. If people can't pay the interest and add it to the debt, the amount of debt increases dramatically: After 14 months the debt will be doubled. These high interest rates are a heavy burden, but a part of it can be explained by the fact, that because of the poverty of the people many debts can't be repaid. Debts like these make the debtors dependent of the creditors. If a creditor is an enemy of the Christian faith, he can say to his debtor: "I gladly allow you to become a Christian. In this case, however, please pay back your debt until tomorrow. If not, I will take it by force." Debts, therefore are one of the reasons, why it is difficult to become a Christian, when you are part of a close knit village setting.

## **Khun Somdjit died.**

In 2015 Khun Somdjit, the father of our worker Khun Fon renovated our little white house. That amounted to a nearly total rebuilding of the house, and he did a great job. It turned out, that he had cancer and needed a number of expensive hospital stays in Bangkok. We prayed for him and told him the Gospel, and he became much better for a long time. In February 2017, however, his health deteriorated rapidly, and he died at March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. He got a Buddhist burial. That meant, his body was conserved for 7 days by cooling in his home. A tent and many chairs were rented besides the house, each evening a group of Buddhist monks had a ritual there with chants, sermon, and prayers. The guests, who came, had to be fed. It followed the cremation at the Buddhist monastery in our village. A structure, where the ashes of the deceased are conserved, must be erected and the ground for it bought from the monastery. 100 days after the death will be a big celebration. If all the costs of the burial and the things associated with it are summed up, the total

amount is about 130 000 THB (about 3400 Euro). In our village people living by day wage have to work for this amount 434 days, if they spend their whole wage for the burial only and nothing for food and clothing. For poor people the costs of a burial are certainly less, but in any case it is a burden, that exceeds by far all the every day expenses.

### **Short News**

Khun Sa, who had worked for us years ago came to us and learned from Christine to bake oat cookies. She enjoyed it very much and succeeded to sell bags of these self made cookies. The sale was successful and she worked with enthusiasm. After some days, however, she stopped.

Khun Paeng, who belongs to Youth with a Mission Thailand in Kanchanaburi Province and has a plantation of fruit trees, brought us many bananas and papaya fruits. We could pass on to others many of these fruits.

Khun Paitoon Silaphan and Khun Jotaka Muanthaisong, who both belong to the church at Lum Sum village 11, invited us for their wedding at April 7<sup>th</sup>. It was a very beautiful celebration.

Sothu had received from us support for his High School attendance. He had to leave the High School after class 3 and earn money, because his single mother is too poor.

We started to support instead Apiwat, the older Brother of Sudschada, who just started the 2<sup>nd</sup> class in High School, and Fa, who just began with the High School in class 1.

At March 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Khun Saengtawan, Christine's first coworker, visited us together with her husband Khun Suriya and his daughter Khwanhathai. Khun Suriya had been married to a Taiwanese wife. After the death of his wife Khun Suriya married Saengtawan. After finishing successfully the 2 year Ministerial Bible School with Rhema, he graduated at Bangkok and they decided to visit us on that occasion. It was a very good encounter, and we were very glad to see the good things God had done in Saengtawan's life during the last years.

### **During the next months**

The contact with our Indian friends goes on, and we think about the best way, how we can help there. For this Reiner wants to write texts about life in the power and grace given by God and about an easy way to physics. We support a house for widows and orphans in Pakistan. In our village we continue the support for the poorest, our work amongst the children and our Sunday Services. We wait for

God, that He wins the hearts of Thai people to receive the vision of the village for children and to create the foundation needed for it. And we wait for an appointment to rent her house, the former house of Khun Suriya.

### **Reasons to give thanks:**

- We can rent our new house Ban Jaiyairak and it became wonderful by its renovation.
- For the village we have become more accessible by it.
- It gives more space to breathe for the house we live in.
- Khun Kanitha gave her life to Jesus and is determined to follow Him.
- We got a lot of fruits from Khun Paeng and a lot of fruits and vegetables from our garden.

### **We ask God for**

- Thai citizens ready to accept and to live the vision about the village for children in need and ready to do everything to prepare the foundation needed for it, for all the things needed for this foundation and for the recognition of the foundation by the state of Thailand,
- a good completion of the rental contract for the house of Khun Suriya,
- people who encounter us,
- us, that God can love and speak through us,
- Khun Kanitha and other persons in our village, that they become stable and mature Christians,
- protection and help for Christians in India and Pakistan,
- provision and protection for Robina Dilawer and her work in Pakistan and for PV and Suja and their work among the Dalits in India,
- a coworker in spiritual unity with us,
- a good preparation and the workers needed for the baby house.

**We send you warm greetings from Lum Sum**

**Yours sincerely**

*Christine und Reiner Hennig*

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<p><b><u>Bank account for donations:</u></b>  Margarete Hennig  Pax-Bank  BLZ 37060193  IBAN: <b>DE16370601930036676019</b>  BIC: GENODED1PAX</p> <p><b>For donations via this account we cannot give receipts reducing taxes.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Weitere Bankverbindung:</u></b>  Missionsverein Lasst uns gehen  Sparkasse Bamberg  Konto 810 918 227  BLZ 770 500 00  IBAN: DE27 7705 0000 0810 918227  BIC: BYLADEM1SKB  <b>Purpose: Missionare Hennig</b>  <b><u>Please don't forget!</u></b>  Receipts reducing German taxes are given once a year.</p>
<p><b><u>Our bank account in Thailand:</u></b></p> <p>MR. REINER GEORG DR HENNIG AND  MRS. CHRISTINE MARGARETE HENNIG</p> <p>Account number: 221-2-94827-9</p> <p>Branch: Kanchanaburi</p> <p>Bank: Kasikornbank</p>	<p><b><u>Our bank account in Thailand:</u></b></p> <p>MR. REINER GEORG DR HENNIG AND  MRS. CHRISTINE MARGARETE HENNIG</p> <p>เลขที่บัญชี 221-2-94827-9</p> <p>สาขา กาญจนบุรี</p> <p>ธนาคารกสิกรไทย</p>

If someone mistakenly transferred money to our account at ING-DiBa: We continue to use that account, but are not allowed to receive there donations for others.

## Ban Jaiyairak



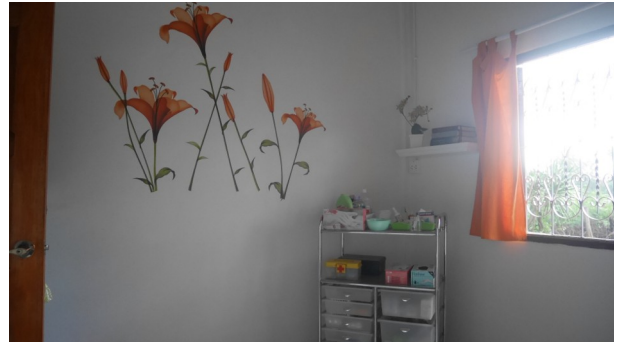
*Our new house Ban Jaiyairak*



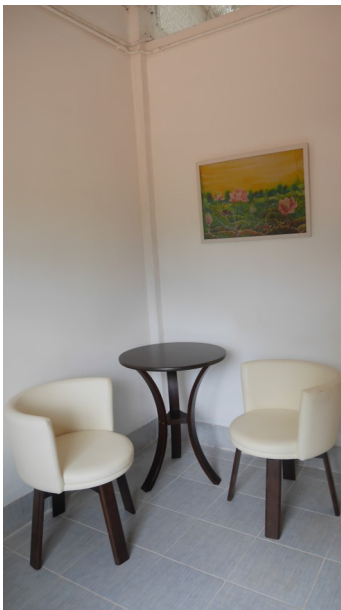
*The big room*



*The extension*



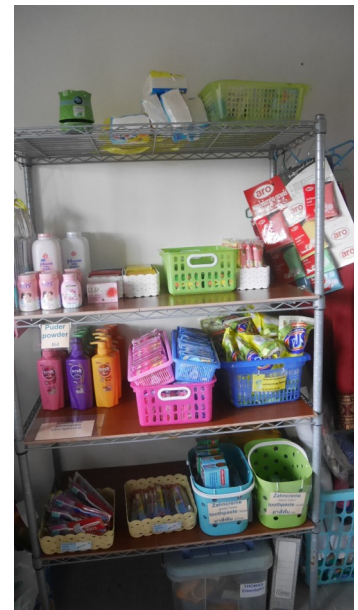
*Room 2 with material for dressing wounds*



*Seating corner in room 2*



*Food to pass on in room 1*

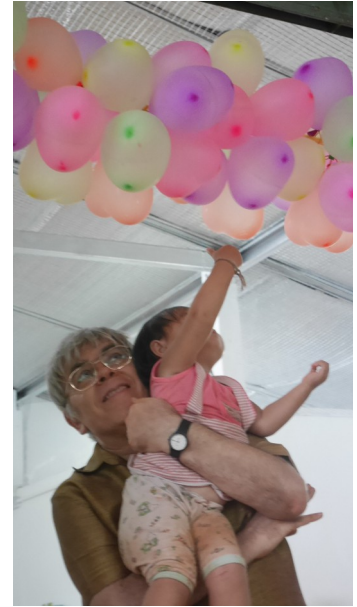


*Detergents and hygiene material in room 1*





*At the inauguration of Ban Jaiyairak*



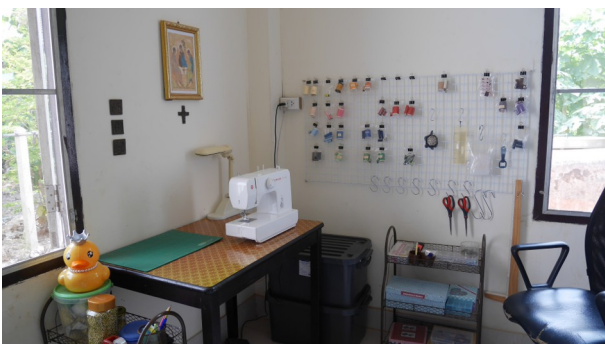
*Khun Somdjit and his wife  
Khun Kamfoi*



*Khun O and Khun  
Fon*



*Khun Kanitha*



*Christine's new sewing work place*



*New kittens*