

HARVEST NEWS



Khon Kaen, Thailand

Q1 2016

FROM THE HARVEST FIELD...

Dear friends,

Greetings from Khon Kaen, where things continue to change rapidly.

Our Inspire children have finished their academic year. On Feb 27 at our end-of-year event, we showcased our children for their parents. Children received awards, and parents received information about our plans for the immediate future. Parents were appreciative for the help given, and many committed to bring their children to our new centers for our future programs and projects. All of our new programs will be family oriented, and we are encouraging parents to come along with their children.

We have discontinued activities in the neighborhood along the railway, and we are launching activities at Harvest Dream Center (formerly known as Kota Land) which is 5 km away from our present location. At Harvest Dream Center, we are converting existing space into three rooms which we will use for classes and meetings until the construction of permanent meeting facilities. We are in need of finances, expertise, and additional staff in order to proceed with the development of phase 1 of the project, which will include staff housing and children's dormitories.

We invited parents to visit us and get involved in our agricultural projects at Harvest Farm (formerly known as Sila Land) which is just around the corner from Kota Land. They can help us grow vegetables such as kangkong, pumpkins, eggplants and fruit trees including guava, avocado, durian, jack fruit and soursop.

Concerning the demolition of dwellings along the railway, news is ambiguous. No one is sure of what will happen, but it is rumored that the dwellings closest to the tracks may be demolished after Songkran (Thai New Year in April). Most households are waiting to see how much they will be compensated by the Railway Authority. We have told the families that at this uncertain time, we are preparing a better place!

Your generous donations and prayer support have enabled us to move forward with our mobile library-cum-classroom bus project. We are in the process of negotiating for the right vehicle that will fit our needs. We have been told that it will take at least 3 months to build the vehicle.

As you read this newsletter, I trust that you will catch a vision and a passion for the work here in the harvest field.

For the harvest,

Dorothy Jason

President

World Harvest Foundation

Reaching the Stars on Saturday

Kris Dollisen



37 children reached the stars in this Saturday Program!

Last December our primary children launched rocket ships into space, and during the three months that followed thirty-seven of them earned enough points to fly beyond the planets. They earned points by coming to the program regularly, giving five star greetings (sawatdee); entering the room prepared to learn; speaking English in class; being attentive during lessons; obeying the leaders, participating in all activities; and speaking English during lunch. The students worked hard to earn over 5.5 billion kilometer points over 11 Saturdays. The points were based on the distance from Earth to Pluto, which is 7.5 billion kilometers.

These are children from the nearby community and from Ban Don Yang and Ban Sila Schools. There was an average attendance of 60 children who joined the program.

We believe that these children will reach their highest potential with God's help, through good and appropriate education and through the active involvement of supportive parents.

English Program

Mike Jason

From May 2015 through March 2016, we offered 150 hours of English language instruction, and forty students enrolled in this program. The students studied five days per week, and they were asked to contribute toward the cost of this program, depending on the financial situations of their families. We also opened the program to outside students at the rate of 50 Baht per hour.

The program was enormously successful for the students who attended regularly and did their homework consistently and accurately. Our students are reading and writing, and their speaking fluency has shown noticeable improvement as well. The program will take a one month break during the Thai New Year holiday season, but will re-open at our Harvest Dream Center location in May.



After School Educational Enrichment Program

Mike Jason

Fifty-three children regularly attended our After School Educational Enrichment Program, held from Tuesday to Friday from 3:15 to 5:45pm. There were seventeen children in our nursery/kindergarten program and thirty-six children in our primary program. These children received small group instruction in mathematics and reading.

This group of children, along with the children who regularly attended our Saturday program, will receive new school uniforms and shoes for the academic year which will commence in May 2016.



Please pray for an open heaven over our children; pray that God's love and compassion will surround them and protect them from danger and destructive distractions in their lives.



Family circles receiving a prayer of blessing at the parents' meeting



Youths doing work skills training on Saturdays – sorting out debris from rice.

Increase on the Farm



Mushrooms



Sweet organic guavas



***200 egg-laying hens (pictured above),
black chickens (pictured at center right),
and newly incubated turkey chicks
(pictured at bottom right).***



Sandy soil covers 80% of Northeast Thailand which means that the soil is not fertile enough to grow good crops. This is thus a huge problem for the region.

However, God in His image has made us to be creative beings. There is no problem too big, for with God all things are possible!

Two volunteers from Singapore (Ginelis and Alicia) gathered information about making and maintaining good soil, and proceeded to start a soil creation project at the back portion of the Harvest Dream Center.

Basically, compost (or created soil) consists of both brown and green matter. Brown matter provides carbon and green matter provides nitrogen.

Brown matter includes rice husk, hay, straw, dry leaves, and twigs. Green matter includes raw greens like leftover fruits and vegetables, fruit and vegetable peelings, tea leaves, egg shells, and fresh weeds.

Composting can be done below the ground or above the ground. Aside from

the brown and green matter, a compost pile can also include a small amount of soil, water and cow manure to promote faster decomposition or breaking down of the matter.

The pile is turned every 3 days to introduce oxygen. The process is doing well when steam is found in the core of the pile during turning. The pile is termed to be 'cooking'.

The compost is maintained until it becomes mature after about two months. When finished the pile will no longer produce heat and will have a sweet forest smell. The soil will be dark brown and crumbly.

Plaek, one of our farmhands, has been trained in composting, and he is continuing the project, as well as doing a larger version of

Alicia's and Ginelis' sample.

Plaek said, **"We have knowledge about many different ways to create soil, but we have only one aim, and that is to let nature do it nature's way."**



*(Pictured at left) Alicia, a young volunteer from Singapore, in a 50 cm deep compost hole
(Pictured below) Compost after two weeks*

Harvest Team



Here's our team! First row from the left: Kes (Office Assistant), Da (Operations Manager), Retchel (Life Skills Volunteer), Kris (Life Skills Volunteer), Dorothy (President and Founder, Volunteer).

Second row from the left: Ginelis (Life Skills Volunteer), Plaek, Long, Thong and Seth (Local Thais who look after the crops and the animals at the Harvest Dream Center and Harvest Farm.)

Last row from the left: Mike (Head of the Education Department), and Ton (Oversees the farming and agriculture department).

***“What makes the dream work?
Teamwork!”*** - John Maxwell

Our team that is working hard at all the tasks before them. We believe it is important that we all learn to work smart and to prioritize the important over the urgent. Please pray that God will send us additional manpower to help with the various new projects that are ahead.

Retchel, Ginelis, and Alicia (a short term volunteer not pictured) are studying Thai. Please pray that God will help them to make the necessary cultural and linguistic adjustments.

In April we will be adding two more ladies to our team. Giup, from Bangkok, will be directing the Heaven in the Home Project. Helen is coming as a Life Skills Volunteer.

Our team is growing as our vision grows!



Not an exact
representation

Heaven in the Home Project

Dorothy Jason

Thank you for all your generous donations toward the purchase of a vehicle in preparation for the impending relocation of the slum community with whom we have been working. **This vehicle will facilitate outreach to neighboring villages and communities. This vehicle will be a mobile library and classroom, coupled with facilities to set up tents when needed.** Thus far we have not been able to find a bus company that is interested in doing the customization that we require, but we have located a motor home company who is willing and able to provide us with a customized vehicle that will meet our needs. Looks like our planned bus may turn into a caravan! Giup, who has worked with me on many camp projects, will be moving from Bangkok to Khon Kaen to lead this project from May 2016. We are now looking for an experienced and good driver. Hopefully, the vehicle will be ready by July 2016.

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